

Champions take the extra step in football, softball, races, See Page 1C



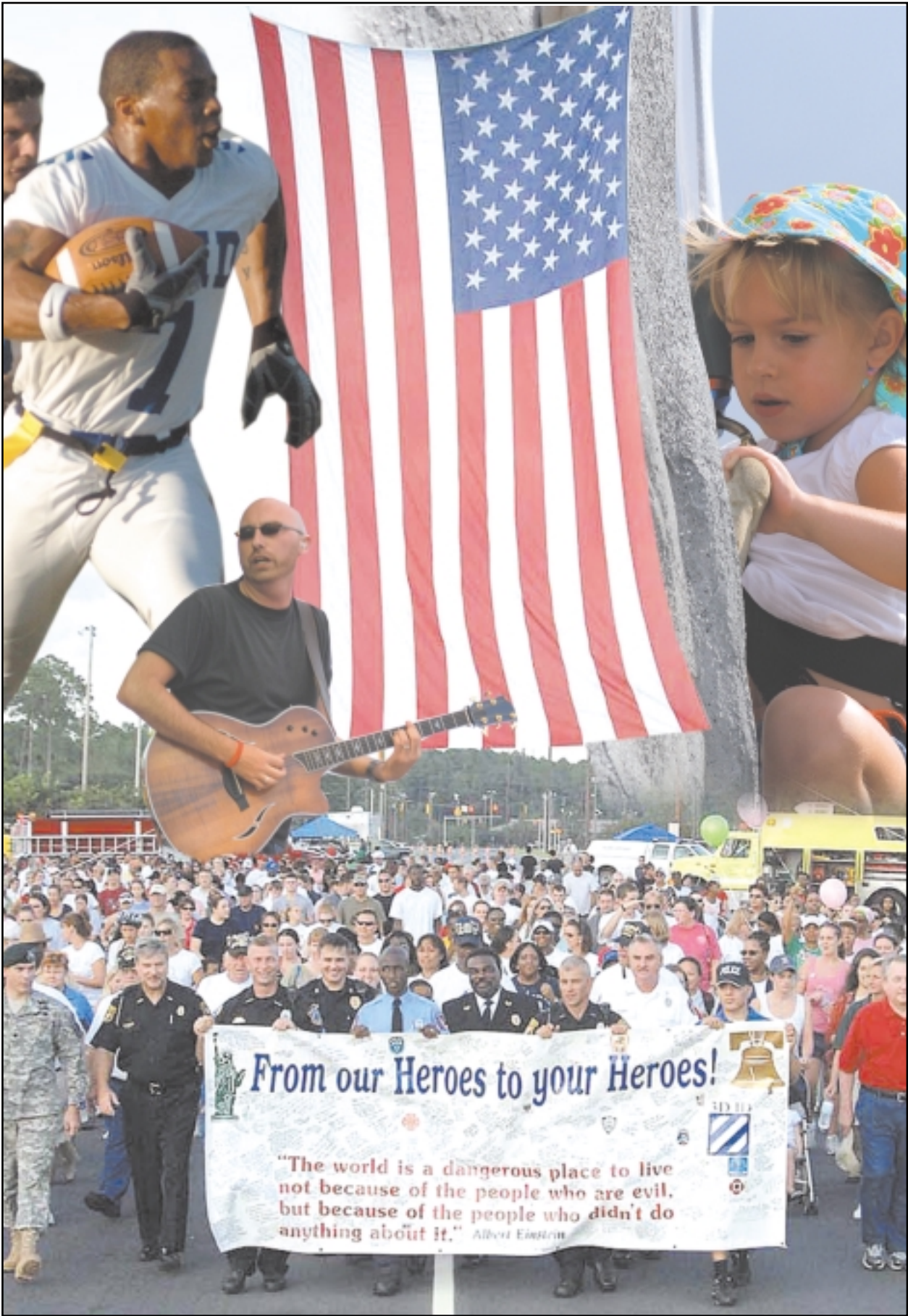
Stewart-Hunter activities allow youth talent to shine, See Page 8B

Marne tax centers open Jan. 22, See Page 6A

Soldiers, Families take the party to the street March 8, See Page 1B



## Souvenir Edition Stewart-Hunter's 2007 in review



Graphic by Sherron Walker

*Supporting Soldiers, Families and the efforts to fight the Global War on Terror, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield hosted athletic championships, concerts, celebrations and memorial walks throughout the year as the Marne Division deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom V.*

## Vanguard Brigade steps up training for action

March 2007

**Spc. Dan Balda**  
4th BCT Public Affairs

If you have driven Route 144 in March 2007, you might have seen a glut of military vehicles making speedy transportation to your destination a veritable Shangri-La.

See **VANGUARD**

If you were wondering why there were so many tan vehicles driving at the speed of decaying plastic it was because the 4th Brigade Combat Team was undergoing Vanguard Focus, a major training exercise in preparation for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Page 7A

## Stewart-Hunter Soldiers reach 100-days accident fatality-free

Special to the Frontline

The Soldiers, Army Civilians, contractors and Family members of the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield reached the 100-day accident-fatality free safety milestone earlier this week.

The installation has not lost anyone in a fatal traffic accident in the

See **SAFETY**

past 104 days.

"We take safety seriously here, Col. Todd Buchs, Stewart-Hunter garrison commander, said. I am very pleased with the Soldiers and civilian employees for putting safety first and continuing to make the right choices when it comes to driving. Let's keep on making the right choices and drive on to another 100 days."

Page 7A

## Marne Div deploys to Iraq

FEBRUARY 2007

Army News Service

The Defense Department announced Feb. 16 that the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters, from Fort Stewart, Ga., will deploy to Iraq beginning in March 2007. This headquarters previously was scheduled to deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2007, as announced on November 17, 2006, but will now be accelerated by a little over three months. The unit leadership notified the Soldiers and their Families prior to this announcement.

This deployment affects an Army division headquarters of approximately 1,000 Soldiers. U.S. troop levels in Iraq continue to be conditions-based, and are determined upon the recommendations of military commanders in Iraq and in consultation with the Iraqi government.

The Defense Department and the U.S. Army will continue to announce major unit deployments as they are identified and told. For information, please contact Army Public Affairs at (703) 692-2000.

See **Marne Insert** subsequent deployments.

## 1st BCT spearheads units overseas

JANUARY 2007

**Spc. Ricardo Branch**  
1st BCT Public Affairs

With the redeployment to Iraq on the horizon for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, some Soldiers said their goodbyes early and boarded a commercial airliner bound for Kuwait from Hunter Army Airfield Jan. 3, 2007

The Soldiers, a small contingent from six battalions of 1st BCT, are

See **1BCT**

Page 7A

part of the initial group sent to help pave the way by ensuring that overall communications are in place prior to the brigade's arrival for theater operations.

"These Soldiers leaving here today are part of the advance party," said Lt. Col. Douglas Winton, 1st BCT executive officer. "They are deploying early to set the winning conditions for the brigade's arrival in Kuwait."

## Spartans focus for war, train for contingencies

JANUARY 2007

**Pvt. Blanton Rosenau**  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery honed their skills Jan. 23, 2007 as part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Spartan Focus at Fort Stewart.

See **2BCT**

Page 7A

The objective was to run the Soldiers through their duties under pressure to prepare them to complete their missions once they are deployed to Iraq this summer, said Staff Sgt. Robert Valley, platoon sergeant of 1st Platoon, Battery A while noting the training was going well.

## A magical moment...



Pat Young

*Dancing the night away, Soldiers and Family members captured magical moments prior to deploying at the second annual My Soldier and Me Ball held Jan. 20, 2007 at Club Stewart. Inset: Sgt. Harry Lichtenberger, HHC, 2/7 Inf., slow-dances with his three-year-old daughter Alyssa.*

See story on Page 8A.



# Marne 6 Sends Success due to Soldiers, Families efforts and sacrifice

**Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch**  
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Happy New Year!  
As well you know, one year ago the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters was preparing for a summer 2007 deployment to Northern Iraq. Our mission changed last January when President George Bush announced the Surge. The Division's training time decreased from six months to six weeks, while our area of responsibility shifted south.

The 3rd Inf. Div. quickly moved to stand up Multi-National Division – Center, and our troops spread out to cover Baghdad's southern belts: the Mahmudiyah and Meda'in qadas, as well as the southern provinces: Babil, Karbala, Najaf, and Wasit.

In the months since, the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division have aggressively taken the fight to the enemy, and we've seen the course of the war change.

I tell the Soldiers every day they have a choice in life: they can make history or they can read history. In 2007, the Dog Face Soldiers deployed as the Surge and made history.

As we look back on the past year, we will never forget the Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Every morning I begin my day in prayer. I lay out the pictures of the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers we have lost to enemy contact, and remember the price they paid for our freedom.

But they were not alone in the fight. That is why at the end of the day, before I go to bed I thank God for our Families and the Fort Stewart community. It's your sacrifices that allow us to be so successful in the missions we carry out every day. Many of you are supporting your spouse through a third deployment, not only managing the house, but raising children on your own. You are the bedrock of support our Soldiers need to stay focused, and knowing we have such amazing Families

is what makes our Army strong.

I've got a lot on my mind over here, but I don't spend anytime worrying about what's going on back home because I know our wonderful community takes care of them. Our garrison staff ensures our Families receive the support they need, and our rear detachment works hard to ensure the connectivity between us and you is seamless even though we're 6,000 miles apart.

Together, we can all be proud of our Soldiers. In 2007, they reduced the number of attacks in MND-C from record highs down to the lowest levels of violence in three years. They denied the enemy his sanctuaries, and they carefully took down extremist networks. In 2007, our Dog Face Soldiers killed or captured approximately 4,000 insurgents, including more than 60 high-value individuals.

When the division first deployed, we faced 25 attacks per day. As we move into 2007, our Soldiers now face less than six attacks per day, and less than two of those result in a casualty or equipment damage. Across the battlespace, civilian casualties are down 75 percent. Those facts together illustrate the impact our Soldiers are having in securing the Iraqi population.

The past year marked a change for us from previous deployments. The Soldiers no longer "commute to work" from large bases, but live out among the Iraqi people in small patrol bases. These bases were the product of hard fighting and heavy sacrifice. But out of the challenges we faced this summer, we earned the trust of local populations who began to realize we were not going to leave them. As a result, they came to us with information on where to find the enemy and his weapons. They asked us how they could help in the fight.



The relationships we forged helped give birth to the Concerned Local Citizens program – groups of Iraqis who have said, "enough," to violence in their backyards and now man checkpoints to keep their neighborhoods secure. The MND– C has more than 26,000 of these Concerned Local Citizens, one third of whom will transition into the Iraqi Security Forces in 2008.

Security alone won't bring success, however. In 2008 the Division will also focus on building the capacity of the Iraqi government and people to care for themselves. Not only will we transition the Concerned Local Citizens into the Iraqi Security Forces, but we'll also place new emphasis on the transition teams whose work will allow us to begin drawing down our forces.

We're going to focus on supporting the Iraqi government from the ground up. Our Soldiers are out among the Iraqis every day and have helped them develop local coordinating councils. The Division leadership is working hard to connect these dots, linking the local councils with the nahia (town) and qada (county) councils so that residents' concerns can work up the chain, while resources funnel down.

Another part of stability is economic security. With jobs and prosperity, the Iraqi people gain a larger stake in seeing their government succeed. To assist this growth, our Soldiers are helping Iraqi shop owners apply for micro-grants – small awards of cash to help small businesses revitalize or get off the ground. In Jurf as Sakhr, a town 25 miles southeast of Baghdad, \$14,000 helped to open 48 shops in one month.

Our Soldiers are also working to shift the two-thirds of Concerned Local Citizens

not transitioning into the Iraqi Security Forces into public works battalions. For years Iraqi communities have suffered from neglect and violence, and now the concerned citizens can help set their neighborhoods right. Iraqis are plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and engineers – they have skills and want to be employed.

Finally, communication will be the critical element for continued success. During a visit a few weeks ago, General George Casey told the Soldiers they "took Iraq off the front page" of national newspapers. But we know how important their work is, and we will continue to publish the Dog Face Daily and upload it to *TaskForceMarne.com*. Together we're bridging the information gap between Iraq and home. You, and all Americans, deserve to learn of the amazing accomplishments our Soldiers are achieving every day.

In 2008, non-lethal efforts such as opening clinics, markets and schools will be just as important as dismantling extremist networks. Every Iraqi who can find gainful employment is an Iraqi no longer shooting at our Soldiers.

I find the Iraqi people want the same things that we as Americans want. They want freedom from fear, they want to be able to send their kids to school, they want to go to work, and they want a place to live in peace.

As General David Petraeus said, no one is dancing in the end zones yet, but we are taking advantage of security gains to tackle stability. Safety and security will always be our number one priority, but we have to build the Iraqi people's capacity in order to transition our way home.

None of us have ever claimed the ability to win this war – only the Iraqis can win this counterinsurgency fight. In 2008, we are giving our all to help them do it.

**Happy New Year!**  
**Rock of the Marne!**

## Lessons learned helps PFC earn Division 'Soldier of the Year'

**Pfc. Monica Smith**  
3rd CAB Public Affairs

**CAMP STRIKER** – Sometimes it's difficult to remedy a mistake made, a first impression is often irrevocable, and restoring your reputation can be almost impossible.

For Pfc. James Truitt, Company B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, the mistakes and errors early in his military career are only a memory after being named the 3rd Infantry Division Soldier of the Year Dec. 20 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

"The (3rd Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews) said I might be asked at any time to talk, so I want Soldiers to know they can come back after making mistakes," said Truitt, from Spokane, Wash. "I think some Soldiers need to hear that."

Truitt began his ascent to Division Soldier of the Year by winning the Battalion Soldier of the Month in August, then the Battalion Soldier of the Quarter in September, followed by 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade Soldier of the Year in mid-September.

Though Truitt knew he would be expected

to stand before a board for the Division Soldier of the Year, he did not know when, or what material he would be expected to know.

"I got the information at the end of my leave," said Truitt. "My squad leader emailed me when the board was going to be and what the subject matters would be, which had changed from the brigade board."

Truitt had two days while on R&R to study the topics and spent the majority of the time looking online to study, focusing on promotions, policies and regulations.

"I basically only had three days to prepare for the division board," said Truitt.

"But, I feel, once you reach the division level board, you've asserted yourself as someone who can accomplish at the board."

The board began at 9 a.m. and Truitt was the third junior-enlisted Soldier to stand before the board at FOB Kalsu, which Truitt explained was named after a 1st lieutenant who played football for the Buffalo Bills.

"A lot of things I wanted them to ask they didn't ask," said Truitt. "It took six hours waiting in the board room, and my nervousness started to build and build. The nervousness turned into excitement and my brain started

working in motion to do this one thing."

Truitt was asked to perform drill and ceremony, the longest, Truitt says, he's done before a board. Truitt was also asked, among other things, to give information on current events, and clear, disassemble, reassemble, and perform a function's check on his weapon. To overcome the more difficult portions of the board Truitt looked to himself for guidance.

"I think I'm my biggest critic," said Truitt. "I picture myself from the other side of the table, and then I try to exceed people's views of what a Soldier of the Year or Soldier of the Quarter should be."

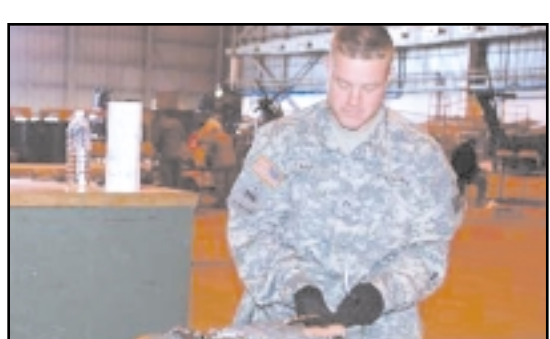
Spc. Brandon Weiler, Co. B, 603rd ASB, has known Truitt during his time of hardship and has witnessed his improvement.

"I'm amazed with someone who has gone through as much adversity as he has to be where he is now," said Weiler. "He never seemed mad, took full responsibility of his actions. He was upbeat, but a bit discouraged. He felt he let us down. But (Truitt is) a little more upbeat knowing that his career hasn't halted. He says that a lot because he thought his career was over."

Now that he has become the Division

Soldier of the Year, Truitt says he believes he has exceeded what people may have judged him to be and tells other Soldiers who are in a difficult situation to persevere.

"No matter how much trouble or how big of a hole you find yourself in, if you don't stop believing in yourself, people around you won't stop believing either," said Truitt. "February of last year I thought was going to be chaptered, and now I'm the Division Soldier of the Year. You can make good things come of bad."



Pfc. Monica Smith

**Pfc. James Truitt, Co. B, 603rd ASB, CAB was named 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier of the Year Dec. 20 at FOB Kalsu.**

## A moment in Marne History: New Year in Colmar Pocket

**Sasha McBrayer**  
Fort Stewart Museum

"We move in the lead again to crack the 'Frozen Crust'." Thus begins the chapter chronicling the division's time spent in the Colmar Pocket, a wintry locale very near to the region of Alsace in the East of France according to the "History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II", edited by Donald G. Taggart.

It was December of 1944 and the world was at war for a sec-



photos courtesy of the Fort Stewart Museum

**Soldiers battle German forces and bitter cold in the Ardennes forrest during World War II.**

ond time. The division had been away from the Continental US since October 27, 1942. We had battled through Italy and Sicily, earning several Distinguished Unit Citations along the way and would recognize 38 Medal of Honor recipients before the close of 1945.

On a snowy New Year's Eve elements of the division would remain active throughout the night.

The 10th Engineer Battalion carried the burden of keeping all roads passable. Company A was led by Capt. Albert H. Cook.

The company scattered cinders and sand across the passage from Kaysersberg, while Co. B, commanded by Capt. Daniel A. Raymond, was forced to drain the Riquewihr-Kientzheim road. Meanwhile, under 1st Lt. Robert L. Bangert, Co. C of the Engineer Battalion was continuously "erecting triple-concertina wire around and in front of the division's positions."

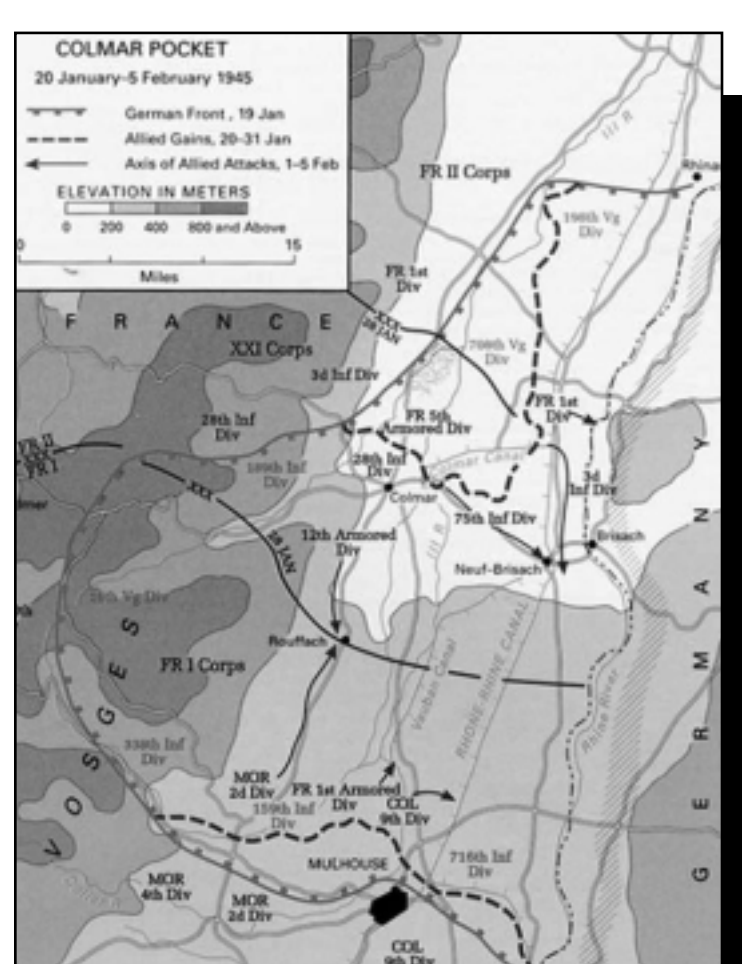
During the night just North of the Weiss River, Co. E of the 30th Infantry under the charge of 1st Lt. Douglas W. Chambers engaged a strong German patrol "in a small arms fight in the woods." Another enemy patrol scrambled into Co. F's outposts South of Hill 216. Before the sun rose on the New Year, however, Co. F, guided by 1st Lt. Richard N. Hagelin, reestablished their hold.

Though the Marne-men had no time to celebrate the coming and going of New Year's, January 23, 1945 would forever be remembered as the Battle at Colmar Pocket, in which the 3rd Inf. Div., unable to dig foxholes in the frozen earth clashed against German tanks and tank destroyers, suffering heavy casualties.

Even so, the division successfully crossed the Colmar Canal and earned the French Croix de Guerre for great bravery in combat and one more Distinguished Unit Citation, this time for the Division in its entirety.

As we ring in 2007, let us remember the times that made the

Marne Division its powerful reputation and keep our eyes forward on the challenges to come.





Current Operations



See Past Operations

Page 8A

Multi-National Corps – Iraq commences Phantom Phoenix

PRESENT

**Special to the Frontline**

Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, Jan. 9 announced the beginning of Operation Phantom Phoenix.

The operation is a series of joint Iraqi and Coalition division- and brigade-level operations to pursue and neutralize remaining al-Qaeda in Iraq and other extremist elements. Phantom Phoenix will synchronize lethal and non-lethal effects to exploit recent security gains and disrupt

terrorist support zones and enemy command and control.

“Working closely with the Iraqi Security Forces, we will continue to pursue al-Qaeda and other extremists wherever they attempt to take sanctuary,” Odierno said. “Iraqi citizens continue to reject extremist elements. We are determined not to allow these brutal elements to have respite anywhere in Iraq.”

The Iraqi people have played and will continue to play an important role by standing up against terrorist elements.

“Iraqis are not passively allowing extremists to conduct their criminal activities,” Odierno said. “We are continuing to see citizens joining Concerned Local Citizen groups, provide tips for criminals and weapons and ammunition caches, and cooperate with the Government of Iraq. This is another step aimed at providing Iraqis long-term sustainable security.”

The non-lethal aspects of this operation are designed to improve delivery of essential services, economic development and local governance capacity.

Operation Marne Thunderbolt continues

DECEMBER - PRESENT

**2nd BCT Public Affairs**

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – Coalition Force events Jan. 5 and 6 in support of Operation Marne Thunderbolt continued to reduce the ability of al-Qaeda in Iraq operating in areas south of Baghdad.

On the morning of Jan. 6, a structure rigged with explosives was reported to Soldiers from 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, currently attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div. An air strike by a U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jet destroyed the structure with a 500-pound GBU-38 bomb.

Later the same day, an air weapons team from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div., observed a group of haystacks with an opening leading to an underground tunnel used by extremists. The helicopters destroyed the tunnel, making the tunnel system inoperable.

During operations Jan. 5, multiple weapons caches and improvised explosive devices were found by Coalition Forces and Concerned Local Citizens.

In southern Arab Jabour, CLCs found an IED comprised of 20 pounds of homemade explosives and turned it over to Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Two IEDs were found near Hawr Rajab by a route clearance team from 6/8th Cav. Regt. One IED was rigged to be detonated with a pressure plate and the other IED consisted of a stick of dynamite and a pressure plate.

A weapons cache was found in Arab Jabour consisting of a 57 mm projectile, a blasting cap and 21 fuses. CLCs turned over the cache to Company D, 1/30th Inf. Regt.

Company B, 1/30th Inf. Regt. also found a pressure-plate IED during a combat patrol. All munitions found during the day were destroyed by an explosive ordnance disposal team in controlled detonations.

Cav unit hits 20,000 flight hours milestone in Iraq

DECEMBER 2007

**3rd CAB Public Affairs**

**CAMP STRIKER, Iraq** – An air cavalry unit in Iraq has found itself ringing in the New Year by flying to a remarkable milestone.

The 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment's Kiowa Warrior helicopters have collectively flown over 20,000 flight hours since arriving for their deployment to Iraq in May, 2007.

The squadron is on pace to fly nearly 40,000 hours during their 15-month deployment and have managed to maintain a readiness rate of about 92 percent fully mission capable, said Chief Warrant Officer Mike Cavaco, production control officer, 3/17th Cav. Regt.

The Kiowa Warrior, a two-seat scout helicopter based on an airframe that dates to the Vietnam War era, has gone through a multitude of changes over the years. From a simple largely-unarmed scout helicopter it has been transformed into a scout platform able to fire Hellfire missiles, rockets and machine guns.

The 3/17th Cav. Regt., from the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., is currently attached to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division for their deployment to Iraq. Their flight hours have been spent in combat south of Baghdad,

supporting Multi-National Division - Center where they have been used extensively supporting ground troops and their Iraqi Security Forces counterparts, said Lt. Co. Robert Wilson, executive officer, 3rd CAB.

The consensus among leaders at the 3rd CAB and 3/17th Cav. Regt. is that people are the most important factor in allowing the unit to reach this achievement.

“Each and every one of those hours was made possible by the incredible team work both in 3/17 and the CAB, including Soldiers and civilians,” Wilson said.

“The 20,000 hours is a testament to the crewchiefs and Soldiers working on the airframes,” affirmed Chief Warrant Officer Adam Duszak, aviation maintenance officer, 3/17th Cav. Regt.

“We have a very high tempo and a lot of missions out there, and everybody's working their hearts out to make this happen,” Duszak said.

Wilson explained that the importance of the Kiowa Warriors on the battlefield could be summed up in the service they provide.

“The missions made up of this incredible number of hours provided the security for the Iraqi people to take back their own land and hopefully their own destiny,” Wilson said.



Courtesy Photo

*Soldiers from 3/7 Inf., 4th BCT, patrol near Khidr in North Babil. The unit is the main effort in an operation to establish a patrol base in an area where AQI is believed to have operated recently.*

4th BCT Soldiers seize ground in former al-Qaeda stronghold

**2nd Lt. William Perdue**  
*4th BCT Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ISKAN-DARIYAH, Iraq** – Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces recently took ground in North Babil previously occupied by al-Qaeda in Iraq and began establishing a new patrol base there Dec. 16.

Before dawn broke, Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division staged their vehicles and equipment for the start of the assault phase of Operation Marne Roundup, a Multi-National Division – Center operation designed to clear AQI near Iskandariyah in North Babil.

Many different sources of intelligence and many months of monitoring the Khidr area prior to the operation confirmed that it was a safehaven for AQI. The area has weapon caches, buildings used to store IED-making material and newly discovered underground tunnel networks. Insurgents hid in these networks following attacks and would resupply and plan further attacks there.

With increased presence of ISF and CF in the Khidr area, AQI's support network will suffer.

“There is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide,” said 1st Lt. John Buckner, executive officer for Company B, 3/7th Inf. Regt. “At this point they are hungry, and

they have no communication with their support. The ones that do have communication – no one will come to help them.”

Once security is stable in Khidr, ISF and CF plan is to establish projects that will improve the local economy. Projects needed in the area range from school refurbishment to improvement of water and sewage systems. Local policing will also have a stronger foothold.

“With the insurgents out of the area, Iraqi Police can now have a stronger impact on the local populace by holding recruiting drives and patrolling the area as a part of crime prevention,” said Maj. Scott Taylor, operations officer for the 3/7th Inf. Regt.

With insurgents pushed out of the area, displaced residents will also be able to return home and begin their lives again.

According to Taylor, the local populace is aiding ISF and CF in helping to build a community where fear of terrorism can be a thing of the past.

“This operation now allows us to work alongside ISF in the ongoing fight to prevent accelerants into Baghdad,” Taylor said. “This operation is successful so far, large in part due to the empowerment of the citizens through the Concerned Local Citizens. With the help of this program, local citizens are able to stand up against al-Qaeda and defend their own communities.”



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

*Two Kiowa Warrior helicopters hover in for a landing at Baghdad International Airport after a mission south of Baghdad, Dec. 8.*



# Savannah parade heralds Soldiers

March 2007



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

**The 3rd CAB marches down the streets of Savannah as the representatives of the 3rd Inf. Div. during the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade last March 17. Parade goers hung green beaded necklaces around the Soldiers' necks and kissed them on the cheeks as they marched by.**

**Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills**  
CAB Public Affairs

It was a day of kisses and well wishes March 17 as hundreds of thousands of people flocked to downtown Savannah for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Participants in the parade came from around the world representing people and places including marching bands and societies from Ireland, police and firefighters from New York City, as well as Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division and Rangers from Hunter Army Airfield.

Representing the 3rd Infantry Division, Commanding General Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch and his wife Sarah; Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews and his wife Frankie; and the Fort Stewart Garrison Commander, Col. Todd Buchs and his wife Renee preceeded the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers, who

marched in the parade. Many of them were new to the experience.

Crowd favorites, many people cheered and ran out to hug and kiss passing Soldiers as they moved down the streets to a steady cadence.

"This was my first time," said 1st Lt. Matthew Wesmiller, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. "It was a great honor. It was amazing seeing everybody out there supporting us."

The support for the troops manifests itself in various ways. As the CAB Soldiers marched by, many of the spectators stood, clapped, cheered and waved. Still others, mostly women wearing bright red lipstick, rushed forward to hang green beaded necklaces from the Soldiers' necks and to give them quick kisses on the cheeks. By the end of the parade, many of

the Soldiers marching had bright red cheeks, but it wasn't from blushing.

Spc. Robert Blinn, Co. D, 4/3 Avn., said it was his second time marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and he didn't have to think twice about stepping out this time. "Lots of women standing on the side, throwing beads," he said. "It's pretty fun. I volunteered this year."

As fun as the parade was for many, it was also an indication of how the people of Savannah and the area surrounding the city feel about the military.

"I was talking to my wife about it," said 2nd Lt. Gregory Wooten, HHC CAB. "I was surprised to see the overwhelming support we got from the city of Savannah. I appreciate it, that heartfelt feeling."

"It made me feel very proud that our town is supporting what we do," said Sgt. Yelixa Mawhor, Co. E, 4/3 Avn.

## Stewart-Hunter recognizes 'Volunteer of the Year'

April 2007

**Pat Young**  
Managing Editor

Soldiers, civilians and Family members gathered at Club Stewart April 16 to celebrate volunteerisms and present the distinguished 2007 Volunteer of the Year award.

The ceremony is in recognition of volunteers at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield and the great contributions they make to Family readiness groups, social programs, athletic events, religious and education activities, the Army Family and the military community.

Although the 3rd Infantry Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch is deployed to Iraq, he prepared a video mes-

sage to present at the ceremony.

In his message he said the 3rd Inf. Div. could not do what needed to be done without the assistance of volunteers. He explained Soldiers were able to focus on their mission, knowing their Families were well cared for back home. He noted volunteers were a major resource and thanked them for everything they did.

Volunteers provided the installation, this year, more than 76,000 work-hours of service, according to Linda Heifferon, directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

She noted that if the volunteers were paid as government service level-five employees, they would have contributed, the equivalent of,

\$1,052,933.

Heifferon presented a symbolic check for that amount to Col. Todd Buchs, Stewart-Hunter garrison commander. Buchs thanked the volunteers for everything they do and said volunteers are dedicated individuals who ask the question "what can I do?" and move forward to meet the challenge of helping Army Families.

The 26 nominees for Volunteer of the Year were *Christina Anthony, Karen Bell, Gwendolyn Braley, Diane Bullock, Brandi Chaney, Rex DeLoach, Tara Crooks, Brittani Ford, Latate Gross, Jennifer Hatcher, Akayla Hill, Julie Hu, James Jones, Brooke Martin, Terrie McKenzie, Stephanie Monday, Jeffrey*

*Moody, Tammy Owens, Trina Perdue, Maria Quinones, Zachery Robertson, Lakesha Smith, Christine Terry, Mandy Viles and Jocelyn Williams.*

Two Youth Volunteers of the Year were announced for service at Stewart and Hunter. The Stewart Youth Volunteer of the Year was announced as *Zachary Robertson*. The Hunter Youth Volunteer was announced as *Brandi Chaney*.

There were seven distinguished service volunteers: *Sgt. 1st Class Karen Elaine Bell, 2nd Brigade Combat Team; Latate Gross; Jeffrey Moody; Trina Perdue; Christine Terry; James Jones and Maria Quinones.* The 2007 Volunteer of the Year was *Christina Anthony*.

## Community relays to help fight cancer

April 2007

**Patrick Young**  
**Kaytrina Sharp**  
Consolidated Public Affairs

Cancer never sleeps so the battle to find a cure will continue as survivors, supporters and concerned community members rally their efforts to increase awareness at last year's Liberty County Relay for Life, April 14, at the Frank Long Elementary School in Hinesville.

The event, a celebration of life, had luminaries lighting the path of cancer victims, survivors and fellow attendees as they march throughout the darkness till the early morning hours. Music and laughter fill the air as hundred of Families gathered to cook out, play games, participate in contest, and bond with their fellow relay-ist. Cancer survivors were honored with the opportunity to complete the first lap of the track. Caregivers were then offered the chance to join their survivors for the second lap in thanks for all the time, love, hope and support they have given to their friends, Family and neighbors who face cancer.

One of the survivors, who started participating in the Relay for Life before she contracted cancer, is Joyce M. Bailey, a program manager in Plans, Analysis and Integration Office at Fort Stewart.

Bailey, who served with the Army for 22 years, continues to be a

Soldier, fighting for a just cause in the battle against cancer. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2005 when a doctor at Winn Army Community Hospital offered her an ultra sound to investigate a mysterious lump. Bailey, who is strong in faith and firm in her belief that you have to listen to your body when it tells you something is wrong, was hard struck by the news, not because of the possible outcome, but by the affect it could have on her Family.

"The good Lord said this is a test; then I'm going to build His testimony," Bailey said to herself. "And as long as He was going to walk with me, then I will walk this walk. My fear at the time was my grandson. I had him since he was three months old. Dealing with the cancer was not going to be an issue. Dealing with him was going to be the issue." Bailey said her Family and friends were there for her, and helped her realized she didn't have to be the bastion of strength for them all the time. She said their strengths manifested too, and helped her through.

The American Cancer Society Web site indicates that cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. Half of all men and one third of all women in the United States will develop cancer during their lifetimes.

To find out more about the cancer by contacting the National Cancer Information Center at 1800-ACS-2345 or the ACS Web site at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).



Pat Young

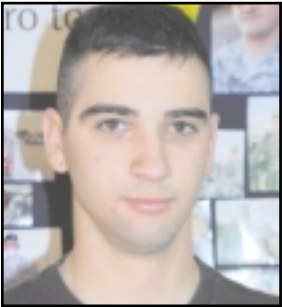
**Soldiers, Families and community members gathered together April 14 to help fight cancer at the Relay for Life held at Frank Cochran Middle School.**

## Marne Voices Speak Out

## What is your New Year's resolution?

"My New Year's resolution for the year 2008 is to be more financially stable."

**Cindy McGlown**  
Family Member



"My New Year's resolution is to be physically and mentally stronger."

**Pvt. Geoffrey Ostrowski**  
1/9 FA

"To keep my room clean."

**Emma Overstreet**  
Family Member



"My New Year's resolution for 2008 is just to be myself, and be a better person, and to spoil my kids even more."

**Spc. John Moody**  
WTU

"To get engaged, which happened on New Year's Day."

**Patrick Eastlake**  
Family Member



Just to be a better me. Anything that I can do to better myself and my Family is exactly what I want to do."

**Tonya McClinton**  
Family Member

**Voice your opinion!**  
**Write a letter to the editor!**

Send to:

Marne TV & The Frontline  
Attn: The Frontline, Editor  
112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109  
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314  
or fax it to 912-767-9366.  
visit [www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil)

**The Frontline**

112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109  
Bldg. 419  
Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314

© 2007

ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526  
**THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-5669**

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the **Frontline** are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Installation Management Command. It is published weekly by the

**3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. RICK LYNCH**  
**GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS**

3rd Inf. Div. PAO — Lt. Col. Randy Martin  
3rd Inf. Div. NCOIC — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs  
3rd Inf. Div. Ops — Sgt. 1st Class Craig Zentkovich  
Div. staff writer — Sgt. Ben Brody  
Div. staff writer — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft  
1st Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Piper  
1st Bde. staff writer — Spc. Ricardo Branch  
2nd Bde. staff writer — Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky  
2nd Bde. staff writer — Sgt. Jason Stadel  
4th Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis  
4th Bde. staff writer — Pfc. Amanda McBride  
4th Bde. staff writer — Pvt. Jerome Arp  
Avn. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills  
Avn. Bde. staff writer — Pfc. Monica Smith  
3rd Sust. Bde. NCOIC — Master Sgt. Rodney Williams  
3rd Sust. Bde. staff writer — Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Garrison PAO — Richard Olson  
Command Information Officer — Jim Jeffcoat

**Editorial/Design Staff**

Managing Editor — Pat Young  
Editor — Sgt. Tanya Polk  
Assignment manager — Jennifer Scales  
Public Affairs Specialist — Lina Satele  
Production Manager — Sherron Walker  
Advertising Mgr. — Lillian McKnight

**Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs**

Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart  
Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould  
Public Affairs Assistant — Kaytrina Curtis

Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3rd Infantry Division and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no way connect-

ed with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$12 - 3 months, \$20 - six months and \$36 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental U.S.





# Iraqi, Coalition Forces flush al-Qaeda from Euphrates

Special to the Frontline

**BAGHDAD** - Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces partnered up to launch Marne Roundup, an operation focused on flushing out al-Qaeda extremists and weapons smugglers operating near Iskandariyah during the early morning of Dec. 15.

The ground assault included Iraqi Army forces and Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

"The purpose of Marne Roundup is to defeat al-Qaeda in North Babil" by denying them sanctuary and escape routes, Col. Thomas James, commander of the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. told reporters Dec. 9.

"The plan is designed to catch them as they egress," James said.

By afternoon, troops had encountered no resistance as they moved through the target area.

In tandem with the start of the offensive, U.S. soldiers destroyed two buildings used by insurgents to store improvised explosive device-making materials, using a total of 12 Guided Multiple-Launch Rocket System rockets. Weapons system video showing the first building being destroyed is pending and will be made available on the Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System Web site.

As soon as the target area is secured, U.S. troops will begin construction of a new security outpost, Patrol Base Khidr. From there, Concerned Local Citizens programs will

be developed in the area and together with Iraqi Police, the CLCs will secure major roads leading to and from Iskandariyah. According to the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., one of the intended effects of the operation is that Iraqi residents of the region will witness a demonstration of Iraqi Police and Army forces standing up to AQI and providing services.

Marne Roundup is the latest in a series of combat offensives launched by Multi-National Division - Center Soldiers to squeeze AQI from the areas south and west of Baghdad. The operation follows up on the success of Marne Courageous, in which Iraqi and Coalition forces secured an area on the west bank of the Euphrates River, near Owesat.

## Concerned Local Citizens uncover large cache

Spc. Ben Hutto  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – On Jan. 1 Concerned Local Citizens in Tuwaitha, a village southeast of Baghdad, discovered one of the largest weapons caches since the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team deployed to the Mada'in Qada nine months ago.

The cache consisted of two five-gallon jugs of homemade explosives, seven 85 mm rockets, one 73mm rocket, 10 82 mm mortar rounds, two 57mm mortar rounds, two 60mm mortar rounds, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers and two 40 mm explosive projectiles.

"Every time a Concerned

Local Citizen brings in ordnance it saves Soldiers' lives," said Maj. Desmond Bailey, from Wetumpka, Ala., the operations officer for 3/1st Cav. Regt. "This demonstrates that more Iraqis are on the side of peace."

Last fall, Company D conducted Operation Tuwaitha Sunrise, which partnered the unit with CLCs in an effort to drive insurgents from the area.

"The Concerned Local Citizens program is highly successful, which is clearly evident based on the amount of ordnance discovered by the Tuwaitha CLCs," said 1st Lt. Timothy Eng, from San Jose, Calif., an engineer in Headquarters Troop, 3/1st Cav. Regt.



Courtesy Photo

**Concerned Local Citizens in Tuwaitha, a village southeast of Baghdad, display part of the large weapons cache they delivered to the 3/1 Cav., Jan. 1.**

## Coalition destroys HBIED in Busayef

Special to the Frontline  
3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**FOB Kalsu** – Coalition Forces destroyed a house-borne improvised explosive device in Busayefi with two rockets from a guided multiple launch rocket system Jan. 2.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division discovered command detonation wires leading from the house to a canal nearby.

Concerned Local Citizens reported a separate IED north of the house made from two oxygen tanks with a crush wire detonator.

CF responded.

Both the HBIED and crush wire IED were engaged by the GMLRS and destroyed.

## Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

**Tell Me a Story for Young Children**  
12 Jan – 10-11:30 a.m., Club Stewart  
12 Jan – 3-4:30 p.m., School Age Services

Through the use of story telling and independent activities, children get an education on deployment while having fun with other children. Children will get an opportunity to be creative and tell what they thought of the book "Over There," a story about deployment. 767-5058/4046.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chinese New Year's Brunch**  
13 Jan – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Club Stewart

Come join us for a delicious oriental brunch. The menu features fried dumplings, egg rolls with duck sauce, sweet and sour pork, pork fried rice, beef with broccoli, sushi, a stir fry station with chicken, shrimp and oriental vegetables, fruit palm tree, fortune cookies, hot and cold rice wine, oriental beer, and assorted desserts. The cost is \$11.95 per person, children 5-10 half price, 4 and under FREE. Get \$1 off each meal with a church bulletin. 368-2212.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dogface Soldiers for Families Class**  
14 Jan – 6-9 p.m., Army Community Services

Are you curious what "Rock of the Marne" means, or the smiling bulldog and the Dogface Soldier? This class for new families and those interested will teach you the history of the 3rd Infantry Division and much more. 767-3276.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dive-in Movie at Hunter**  
17 Jan – 5 p.m., Tominac Fitness Center

Come watch a movie while you relax at the indoor pool. Bring a float and relax in the pool while enjoying a movie with Family and friends. Children 15 and under should be accompanied by someone over the age of 16. Open to active duty military, Family members, Reserves, National Guard and guests of authorized users. 315-5078.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annual Teen Lock In**  
19-20 Jan – 11 a.m. to 7 a.m., Youth Center

Come join us for an all night event of food, fun and teen activities. Space available for 60 Fort Stewart teens who are between 13 and 18 years old. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Registration ends on Jan. 16. 767-4491.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Animal Crackers at Hunter**  
22 Jan – 10 a.m., CYS Youth Center

Bring your child (ages 3-5) out for an introduction to nature. Children will enjoy a morning of fun and education exploring the outdoors!! Sign up by 9 Jan. Cost is \$2 per child. Dress appropriately for outdoor activities, weather permitting. 435-8205.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Newcomer's Expo at Hunter**  
24 Jan – 4-6 p.m., Hunter Club

New Soldiers and Families are invited to come learn about the area and learn more about the community. Door prizes, refreshments and information will be available. 315-2694.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Annual Aerobic-Thon**  
26 Jan – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Newman Fitness Center

Aerobic-Thon is four hours of non-stop aerobics. Come and learn a variety of aerobic exercise routines, receive nutritional counseling, get a body fat analysis, and participate in a wellness screening. 767-3031.



## Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

### Medical Transport available

If you need transportation for medical and dental appointments from Tuttle Clinic to Fort Stewart call the Hunter TMP at 315-5865 or 320-5888. Call no later than 3 p.m. the day before your appointment and provide your name, appointment time and location, special requirements, number of passengers, including ages of children.

### Volunteers wanted for tax center

Do you enjoy working with people? Do you possess a knack for working with numbers?

If your answer to these questions is yes, then the Stewart-Hunter Legal Assistance Office/Marne Tax Center may have a challenging and rewarding opportunity for you.

In preparation for the 2007 Tax Season, the Stewart-Hunter tax centers are looking for interested volunteers to staff the VITA tax centers at the installation.

This opportunity can provide good training and experience for future jobs. For further information you may contact at ACS, 767-5058.

### Tax Center opens Jan 22

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Your tax return is filed electronically and if a refund is due, will receive it usually within seven to 10 business days. Eligible individuals include active duty Soldiers, their dependents, and retirees.

The center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 22 through April 15. The Stewart Tax Office will be located at 1067 Gulick Avenue, Building 617. The Hunter Tax Center is at building 1211 at the Hunter Legal Center. For more information, call 315-3675.

Documents to bring if they apply to you: W2 for all wages received; state incometax return (prior year); military ID (self and spouse); receipts for charitable contributions; social security card or memo from social; property tax receipts; security admin for member, spouse, dependents; home mortgage interest statement; power of attorney if necessary; student loan interest statement; prior year tax return; divorce decree if applicable; proof of dependent care expenses; proof of educational expenses; uninterest income statement (e.g., 1099); HUD 1 Statement (if home purchased in IRA/TSP Contribution Statements in 2007; dividend income statement (e.g., 1099DIV); statements reflecting capital gains/loss; and educator expenses.

## Stewart

### Jump into fun with ESC Sock Hop

The Fort Stewart Enlisted Spouses' Club hosts a Sock Hop, 7 p.m., Jan. 19 at Club Stewart. The event costs \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Free child care provided at the Child Development Center for registered children. The event will have various contests at the dance.

For more information, call Jonna Reed at 271-4086, Maria Eggers at 432-0323, Glenda Hightower at 369-4136 or Sherry Puricelli at 492-4325.

### PWOC classes, meets slated

Classes are available for children, ages three and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in the Religious Education building.

Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for additional information. Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Valarie Moore at 920- 8519.

### Visit the Shop of the Marne

The Shop of the Marne sells crafts and 3rd Infantry Division memorabilia. New merchandise is arriving so stop by Building 25 off McNeely Rd., behind the PX and check it out! For more information, call the Shop at 767-9268.

## Hunter

### Child scholarships begin

The Defense Commissary Agency's 2008 scholarship for military children is now accepting applications.

The applications are available at the commissaries worldwide and online at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) or [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org). The packets must be turned in to a commissary by Feb. 20 and include an essay (requirements outlined in application). The program is open to unmarried children under age 21 (23 if in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. For more visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

### Come to movie afternoon

Hunter middle and high school youth are invited to attend a movie the first Saturday of each month in the Post Theater (located by ACS) to enjoy a movie, popcorn and Kool-Aid.

### Tax returns done free

Active Duty Soldiers, their dependents and retirees can get their returns filed free, Jan. 22 through April 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Hunter Legal Center, 315-3675, for appointment.

### Hunter Vehicle Registration Office moved

The VRO has relocated to Wilson Gate. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Advisory Council Meeting at TAHC

The meeting is scheduled Jan. 11, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Hunter Garrison Conference Room to discuss patient and Family centered care. All are welcome, including those who are interested in becoming a patient advisor. Call

Brandon Yarber, 315-5731, for information or email him at: [Brandon.yarber@amedd.army.mil](mailto:Brandon.yarber@amedd.army.mil).

### Free Infant Formula

The free formula distribution at Hunter's ACS has been extended while supplies last. The Red Cross will distribute the formula at ACS each Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Those eligible include active duty personnel or a Family member with an infant, age 0 – 12 months. Participants are limited to 3 cases (18- 12- oz. cans) of formula per child. For information, contact Mark Stall at 651-5352.



## Stewart

### Join Joint Neighborhood Huddle

This month we are combining all neighborhood huddles into one at 5 p.m., today at Southern Oaks Community Center. We invite all GMH residents from every neighborhood to attend this joint huddle.

### Read at the Reading Tent

Bring your favorite book and crawl into the reading tent for story time 4 p.m., Jan. 16 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

### Bake-Off slated

Come celebrate National Pie Day by participating in our bake-off. Bring your best homemade pie or cobbler 4 p.m., Jan. 24 at the Southern Oaks Community Center, for the contest. If you would like to participate, please RSVP by calling 210-3250.

## Hunter

### Bring your book to the reading tent

Bring your favorite book and crawl into the reading tent for story time 4 p.m., Jan. 14 at the New Savannah / New Callaway Community Center.

### Bake-Off slated

Come celebrate National Pie Day by participating in our bake-off 4 p.m., Jan. 23 at the New Savannah / New Callaway Community Center. Bring your best homemade pie or cobbler for the contest. If you would like to participate, please RSVP by calling 210-3250.

### Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live. The date is Jan. 14 for New Gannam. The meetings start at 10:30 a.m. at the GMH leasing office.





Courtesy photo

Soldiers with the 3rd HBCT train with their Bradley Fighting Vehicles at NTC at Fort Irwin, Calif., prior to their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

3rd BCT continues combat training at NTC

JANUARY 2007

Sgt. Natalie Rostek  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

**FORT IRWIN, Calif.** — Close to two months after 3rd Brigade Combat Team completed a vigorous 30-day training exercise, Hammer Focus, Sledgehammer Soldiers geared up and shipped out for their second stage of training Jan. 15 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Approximately 30 days are dedicated to tough and rigorous training in rough conditions.

After a five-hour plane ride, Soldiers were brought to Victorville, Calif., then bussed to Irwin's Camp Warrior. This is a camp designed to simulate a staging area on a deployment to Iraq.

"This is true to form," said Capt. Drew Staples, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery. "This is exactly what the

Soldiers will encounter when they first arrive in Camp Buering, Kuwait."

The camp is complete with a PX, barber shop, food stands, laundry facility and a Soldier-run chow hall and aid station.

Soldiers are instructed to regard Camp Warrior as though they are on a base in Iraq and act accordingly. This includes pulling guard on each entrance gate as well as towers located on the perimeter of the Camp.

Temperatures range from an average of 57 degrees Fahrenheit during the daytime to below-freezing at night, making acclimatizing to the weather difficult.

"During the day it's warm, so I feel better going to the PX or getting chow," said Spc. Sharonda Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BCT. "At night it's just too cold to go out and do anything."

For many Soldiers, this is their first deployment to NTC and they are finding the accommodations to be less than comfortable, but

are still able to adapt.

"The sleeping conditions aren't too bad," said Pvt. Shemika Walker, Company B, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion. "They are little areas but there is nothing we can do about that. I would like if the showers would stay on by themselves without having to keep pushing the knob."

Those seasoned vets who have been deployed to NTC with the Sledgehammer Brigade prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom III find an improvement to the previous accommodations.

"Last time (at NTC) we didn't have these nice tents to sleep in," said Spc. Chris Shelly, a HHT, 3rd BCT fire support specialist who has previously been deployed with 3rd BCT to NTC. "We were sleeping in shelter-halves on the ground outside."

"This is the best team of leaders I have ever had the opportunity to work with," said Col. Wayne Grigsby Jr., 3rd BCT commander.

"Upon the completion of NTC, we believe the BCT will be well trained to execute combat operations in Iraq."

Soldiers in 3rd BCT received the news of an earlier- than-expected deployment date to Iraq shortly after President George W. Bush announced plans Jan. 10, 2007 to surge U.S. troops into Iraq. With the accelerated deployment date, Sledgehammer Soldiers found themselves in a dead sprint when returning to Fort Benning Feb. 14, 2007.

"As long as we have time to see our Families before we go, I won't mind leaving so soon," Walker said. "The earlier we go, the earlier we come home."

Grigsby encourages Soldiers to continue to do their job, train hard and be prepared for Iraq both physically and mentally.

He said, "The most important resource in the Sledgehammer team and what leads to the teams success is the Sledgehammer Soldier."

1BCT

From Page 1A

He said the forward movement of the advance party has a two-part mission they will be performing for the brigade.

"Our first mission is to conduct the reception, staging, and onward movement in Kuwait," he said.

"We'll be receiving the brigade's equipment and Soldiers and preparing them for operations in Iraq."

"Secondly, we'll be conducting those combat counter insurgency operations in the brigade's area of operation when we arrive in (Iraq)," Winton said.

For some of the Soldiers leaving for Iraq, it's a second rotation, which makes this deployment more bearable than the last.

"I'm more confident now

because being over there before, I understand the intentions, and what our goals are," said Spc. Eric Wade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT. "I've also trained a lot for this deployment so I'm better prepared this time around.

Despite leaving their loved ones behind, the Soldiers from the advance party recognize the importance of this operation.

"All of us here are sad to leave our Families but we are determined to do this mission," he said.

"We have been preparing for this deployment for many months and we've known for the last two months that we'll be going, so we've worked very hard to be ready for this day."

SAFETY

From Page 1A

"Every time we reach 100 days without losing a Soldier, an Army Civilian, or a Family member, to a fatal traffic accident there will be a training holiday for the installation," Buchs said.

The 3rd Infantry Division will celebrate 100 days accident fatality-free by conducting a Division Safety Day program, followed by releasing Division personnel at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 18.

For Garrison Soldiers, Jan. 18 will be a day off. Army Civilians are encouraged to use leave, but missions will continue to be accomplished. This is the second time a training holiday has been given for reaching the 100-day safety milestone.

The focus on safety continues here. The speed limit on highways 119 and 144 in the Fort Stewart training area is 45 mph because of the 76th Brigade Combat Team training here for its deployment to Iraq. The brigade is an Indiana National Guard unit.

Drivers using highways 119 and 144 need to be acutely aware of the speed limit reduction and also increased traffic because of the training. Drivers should give themselves more time to arrive at their destinations and are also

encouraged to use alternate routes until the training is completed. Tactical vehicles are required to maintain a 40 mph speed limit, so drivers should be prepared to adjust their speed accordingly. All speed limit signs have been changed to read 45 mph. Additional signs have been posted along the highways alerting drivers to the mobilization.

Drivers should be alert for military vehicles crossing the highways at tank trails throughout the training areas. Drivers should also watch for flashing amber lights on the road where vehicles may be crossing or stopped in the road waiting to cross and for mud and other debris on the highway. Extra caution should be taken during darkness when fog is present or other limited visibility situations.

Other safety initiatives include the motorcycle safety course offered here that teaches riders how to safely use their motorcycles. The installation recently added motorcycle simulators to the class, offering more depth to the safety training. The installation's electronic message boards at the gates provide safety messages to drivers and keep track the number of days without a traffic fatality.

Stewart-Hunter and the 3rd Inf. Div. are now in pursuit of 200 days of safe driving; the Army record is 296 days.

2BCT

From Page 1A

"I am very proud of my Soldiers," Valley said. "I feel I have a special bunch here who rose to every occasion to get each mission accomplished. They adapt quickly to do what is needed, and then some."

One of the Soldiers Valley praised was Pfc. Tamous Willis, who just completed Basic Combat Training in June and is here on his first assignment.

"Pfc. Willis is a perfect example of how well

my Soldiers adapt," Valley said. "He is fresh out of BCT and has successfully performed in a non-commissioned officer's position on many occasions."

One of Spartan Focus' missions is to train Soldiers to fill multiple positions, to prepare them for as many possible contingencies as possible.

"It's not that big of a deal," Willis said of Valley's praise. "I want to learn as much as

possible, to be ready. I appreciate every opportunity to do so. In my spare time I like to study field manuals or volunteer for whatever is needed."

Besides preparing the Soldiers for the unexpected, the training uses repetitive drills. "Shoot, communicate, move," Valley said. "That's what field artillery is about."

"By the time we completed our Mission Readiness Exercise, our Soldiers will be 100%

ready, efficient and effective," Valley said.

Valley should know. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom I, III and Desert Storm.

"Once again I want to say how proud I am of our Soldiers and how motivated they have been so far," said Yrigollen. "I am very excited to work with such great people. Our officers, non-commissioned officers and especially our Soldiers are top notch."

Ball creates magic moments

JANUARY 2007

Pat Young  
Managing Editor

Memories were made at Club Stewart Jan. 20, 2007 as parents and their children tripped the light fantastic at the second annual My Soldier and Me Ball held at Club Stewart.

The all-ranks formal dress occasion featured pictures, prizes, dinner and dancing.

"We held this event to provide an opportunity for parents to share quality time with their children and for everyone to a good time," said Christina Anthony, Officers' Spouses Club representative and Liberty County Armed Services YMCA Family program director.

Arriving at the ball, guests were treated to a red-carpet welcome. Young ladies were given carnations and young men were given 3rd Infantry Division key chains. Entering the club,

the red carpet brought them through a corridor of flowers and festive colored balloons.

The wall-to-wall decorations weren't the only entertainment. Each child who attended received a door prize and DJ Dean from Phatt Katz was on hand with a wide variety of popular music.

A father and daughter moved easily in the corner of the ballroom, swaying gently to the soothing music of Nat King and Natalie Cole singing "Unforgettable."

The daughter clung to his shoulders of her father, and rested her head against his solid shoulders in a magical moment of tenderness.

"I came (here) for her," said Sgt. Harry Lichtenberger, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, as he danced with his three-year-old daughter Alyssa as they moved along the dance floor.

VANGUARD

From Page 1A

The brigade has focused on building from the ground up. The training has centered on squads and platoons, the basic building blocks of a fully-capable combat-ready unit.

"We are trying to build confident and competent Soldiers that are capable of completing a number of tasks, such as acting on contact and counter-insurgency operations," said Maj. Kolin Bernardoni, 4th BCT executive officer.

"The main goal has been to provide a level of proficiency for the Soldiers collectively as a squad and platoon to be ready for NTC," said Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Torres, 4th BCT's top enlisted Soldier. "Although all the units have gone out and done training, this is the

first time the brigade as a cohesive unit has gone out and put everything together in a situation like this."

The main thing Torres was hoping to see during the training was the Soldiers gaining confidence in their training and themselves.

He was rewarded with the units coming together as cohesive groups, as the leaders became comfortable with the expectations placed on them by the brigade.

"I wanted to see small unit leaders, sergeants and staff sergeants, doing what I saw last week: leading this platoons and squads and everybody getting together and learning from each other," Torres said.



# Ask the Judge: Immigration through a Family member

Maj. Monte Richards

Chief, Legal Assistance, OSJA

**Question: What steps do I take to make a foreign-national relative a lawful permanent resident of the United States?**

**A**nswer: If you want to make a foreign-national relative, such as a spouse, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, you must go through a multi-step process.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services must approve an immigrant visa petition, I-130 Petition for Alien Relative, for your relative.

This petition is filed by you and must be accompanied by proof of your relationship to the foreign-citizen relative. The purpose of the petition is to give your relative a place in line among others waiting to immigrate based on the same kind of relationship.

Your relative's place in line will be based on the date you file your petition, so there is an advantage to filing as soon as possible (see below).

The next step is for the immigrant to obtain a visa number. The Department of State must determine if an immigrant visa number is immediately available to your relative, the foreign national, even if he/she is already in the United States.

When an immigrant visa number is available, it means your relative can apply to have one of the immigrant visa numbers assigned to him/her. You can check the status of a visa number in the Department of State's Visa Bulletin. Understand that there are only a limited number of immigrant visas and until one is available, the foreign national is on a waiting list.

**Question: What relatives may be sponsored as an immigrant?**

**A**: This depends on whether the sponsor is a U.S. Citizen or a lawful permanent resident. If the sponsor is a U.S. Citizen, he or she may petition for the following foreign national relatives to immigrate to the U.S.:

- Husband or wife
- Unmarried child under 21 years of age
- Unmarried son or daughter over 21
- Married son or daughter of any age
- Brother or sister, if the sponsor is at least 21 years old, or
- Parent, if the sponsor is at least 21 years

old.

If the sponsor is a lawful permanent resident, he or she may petition for the following foreign national relatives to immigrate to the U.S.:

- Husband or wife, or
- Unmarried son or daughter of any age.

**Question: What is the procedure for immigrating to the U.S.?**

**A**: If you wish to immigrate as a relative of a U.S. Citizen or lawful permanent resident, you must obtain an immigrant visa number based on the preference category in which you fall. People who want to become immigrants are classified into categories based on a preference system.

The immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, including parents, spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21, do not have to wait for an immigrant visa number to become available once the visa petition filed for them is approved by USCIS. An immigrant visa number will become immediately available. The relatives in the remaining categories must wait for an immigrant visa number to become available (which could take years) according to the following preferences:

- First Preference: Unmarried adult sons and daughters of U.S. citizens. Adult means 21 years of age or older.
- Second Preference: Spouses of lawful permanent residents, their unmarried children (under 21), and the unmarried sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents.
- Third Preference: Married sons and daughters of U.S. Citizens.
- Fourth Preference: Brothers and sisters of adult U.S. Citizens.

Once USCIS receives your visa petition (Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative), it will be approved or denied. USCIS notifies the person who filed the visa petition if the petition was approved. USCIS will then send the approved visa petition to the Department of State's National Visa Center, where it will remain until an immigrant visa number is available.

The Center will notify the foreign national when the visa petition is received and again when an immigrant visa number is available. You do not need to contact the National Visa Center, unless you change your address or there is a change in your personal situation, or that of your sponsor, that may affect eligibility

for an immigrant visa, such as reaching age 21, marriage, divorce, or death of a spouse. If you become a U.S. citizen while your relative is waiting for a visa, you can upgrade your relative's visa classification by upgrading your petition.

Upon receiving an immigrant visa number and if the relative is already in the United States, the relative can apply to adjust to permanent residence status. If the relative is not in the United States, he/she will be asked to go to the local U.S. consulate to complete the processing for an immigrant visa.

**Note:** Your foreign-citizen relative can only "adjust status" (to lawful permanent resident) from within the United States if he/she initially entered the United States legally — that is, under some type of valid visa. This is true even if the visa has since expired.

However, if your spouse entered the United States illegally - then he/she cannot adjust status from within the United States. There are special rules that apply for a husband or wife, unmarried children under 21, or parents of a U.S. citizen that are currently in the U.S.

• If you are applying for adjustment to permanent resident status, you must receive advance permission to return to the United States if you are traveling outside the United States.

This advance permission is called Advance Parole. If you do not obtain Advance Parole before you leave the country, you will abandon your application with USCIS and you may not be permitted to return to the United States. You will have to start the process over and likely will have to do it from outside the United States.

**Question: What forms must be submitted?**

**A**: Form I-130 is used by a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States to establish the existence of a relationship to certain alien relatives who wish to immigrate to the United States. A separate form must be filed for each eligible relative. Please note: USCIS processes Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, as a visa number becomes available. Eligible relatives must wait until there is a visa number available before they can apply for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status to a lawful permanent resident, even though these forms can be filed at the same time. The filing fee for this form is

\$355.00.

• Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, is used to apply or adjust the applicant's status to that of a permanent resident of the United States. The filing fee for this form is \$930 plus a biometrics fee of \$80 for a total of \$1010. This package may be filed at the same time as the Form I-130.

• Form G-325A, Biographical Data Sheet, is used to provide biographic information on an alien (if between the ages of 14 and 79).

• Form I-693, Medical Examination Sheet, is used to determine whether an applicant for adjustment of status is admissible to the U.S. on medical grounds. The examination must be conducted by a civil surgeon who has been designated by USCIS.

• Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, is used by certain aliens who are temporarily in the U.S. to request an Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

• Form I-864, Affidavit of Support, is used to show that the applying immigrant has enough financial support to live without concern of becoming reliant on U.S. government welfare. It is submitted as part of the Form I-485 Package.

The sponsor must show that he/she can financially support the spouse at 125 percent of the federal poverty line for your household size. (Sponsors who are members of US Armed Forces on active duty must meet only 100 percent of the current federal poverty line).

• Form AR-11, Aliens Change of Address Card, is used to change your address while a USCIS application or petition is pending. You will need to fill one of these out if you move or receive a change of duty station.

**Note:** Copies of the packet can be obtained from the legal assistance office.

## Justice Served —

**Private 1st Class Alexander A. Pierce,** Rear-detachment, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, convicted by summary court-martial; failure to follow a lawful command from superior commissioned officer; reduced to Pvt. (E1), and confinement for 30 days.



APRIL 2007

# TF Marne Soldiers receive combat patch



Sgt. Ben Brody

**Master Sgt. Kevin Crawford, 3rd Inf. Div. G-6 plans NCO, affixes his combat patch during a ceremony at Task Force Marne Headquarters.**

## Special to the Frontline

Soldiers of Special Troops Battalion and Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Division, received their "combat patches" during a ceremony at Camp Victory April 19.

The Shoulder Sleeve Insignia — Former Wartime Service, commonly called a combat patch, is authorized for Soldiers who serve in a hostile area.

"(Young Soldiers) naturally look for mentors, standard-setters — persons with experience," said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Inf. Div. commander. "A combat patch is often the first indication to others that a person is an experienced individual."

Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr. then removed Lynch's 11th

Armored Cavalry Regiment combat patch, and replaced it with a Marne patch.

"This patch represents nine decades of service to our nation," Lynch said. "Wear this combat patch from this day forward with pride."

Soldiers from the headquarters unit are primarily responsible for gathering battlefield information to aid the command group's decision making process, and disseminating those decisions. Many Task Force Marne Soldiers also provide security for the command group and the headquarters building.

"I know what I'm doing up here is helping my battle buddies down in the line units," said Pvt. Kyle Hughes, 3rd Inf. Div. engineer. "I'm proud to wear the 3rd Infantry Division patch."

APRIL 2007

# 385th Military Police open Family center

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

A yellow ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of a newly designed Family center for the 385th Military Police Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade was held April 18.

The wives and Families of the 385th MPs along with Chris Martin, Family Readiness Group advisor, designed a place for the Families and friends of the Soldiers that are currently deployed to go and receive information or update old information.

Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton H. Johnson, 3rd Sustainment Bde., said, "I think this is awesome. I think the FRG and the ladies have really put together an awesome project. This could be the model for the entire division."

"Lt. Col. (Donna) Martin wanted to have a place for the Family members," Martin said, "so they can come, meet, hang out, the kids can play, and a place they can post things on the walls to remind them of their husbands and their Families."

The end result, Martin explained, is a nice group area and a separate FRG location.

"We have a calendar on the wall where we count down the days," said June Liggett, one of the founding members of the Family center. "We want information for the Families."

Liggett also said that they distribute the monthly newsletter that comes to them from Iraq.

The FRG is the Army's effort to keep Families involved, informed, educated, and taken care of, Martin said.

"I think we have a pretty strong organization that takes care of each other, dispatches and sends information, works issues and tries to take care of Families because at the end of the day, what we're really talking about is taking care of families," said Martin.

"I am honored that Family members take this kind of time out of their busy schedule to take care of other Families," said Col. Darrell K. Williams, 3rd Sustainment Bde. commander, of the yellow ribbon ceremony and Family center. "It's among the best I've ever seen."



Courtesy Photo

**Family members of the 385th MP Battalion cut the yellow ribbon at the opening of a new Family center dedicated to the military personnel that is currently deployed over in Iraq.**



## Past Operations



# Division's operations help stop extremists

Spc. Olanrewaju Akinwunmi

*Pfc. Jason Denson with Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pulls security at a house in Arab Jabour, southern Baghdad, during Operation Marne Touch, June 18. Operation Marne Touch is a joint sweeping operation through Arab Jabour as part of an effort to halt the movement of weapons and explosives into the capital.*



JUNE 2007

## Marne Torch blazes, 3rd Inf Div brings smoke

Special to the Frontline

**FOB Kalsu, Iraq** – Fixed-wing aircraft dropped four precision-guided bombs on targeted sites preventing insurgents from entering southern Baghdad, June 16, 2007. This was the beginning of a major offensive operation dubbed Marne Torch.

The aircraft supported approximately 1,200 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers who are

focused on the security belts surrounding Baghdad.

2nd Brigade Soldiers have the mission of defeating insurgent activity, denying the enemy sanctuary and preventing terrorist elements from moving accelerants from the Arab Jabour area into Baghdad.

The brigade's efforts in Arab Jabour are part of the larger operation recently announced by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Gen. David Petraeus, Multi-National-Force commander.

"Our Soldiers are well trained, and I am extremely proud of the work they have accomplished over the past several weeks in preparation for this operation," said Col. James Adams, 2nd BCT deputy commanding officer.

Marne Torch is named for the historical British-American invasion of French North Africa in World War II that took place in 1942. Soldiers from the 3rd Inf. Div. fought alongside its British comrades, and at a modest cost, gave the allies substantial beachheads in North Africa.

## Marne Avalanche follows Torch

JULY 2007

Special to the Frontline

**BAGHDAD** – Task Force Marne began a full-scale offensive July 16, 2007 in southern Baghdad to drive out anti-Iraqi forces.

Marne Avalanche is an offensive operation aimed at stopping southern Baghdad from being used as a safe haven and preventing the movement of weapons, munitions and insurgents into Baghdad. The operation's intent is to improve security conditions in

southern Baghdad and reduce the influence of insurgents in the area.

Marne Avalanche will build on the successes of Task Force Marne's offensive operation, Marne Torch, which began June 1, 2007 and is ongoing.

To date, operation Marne Torch has resulted in 1,152 structures being cleared, 83 insurgents killed, 278 insurgents detained, 51 caches found, 51 boats destroyed and 872 citizens entered in a biometric identification system.

AUGUST 2007

## Marne Husky, flight to fight

Special to the Frontline

**BAGHDAD** – Iraqi security and Coalition Forces launched an aviation-based combat offensive dubbed Operation Marne Husky Aug. 15, 2007 focusing on an enemy sanctuary in southeastern Baghdad. This operation is a key part of Multinational Corps-Iraq's overall operation, Phantom Strike and will target militant safe havens and weapons smugglers, in an effort to choke the flow of bombs and weapons reaching the Iraqi capital.

The operation will disrupt insurgents who fled the towns of Salman Pak and Arab Jabour in front of earlier U.S. offensives. Marne Husky is a change for MND-C in that the unit with primary responsibility is the aviation brigade.

Instead of conducting linear maneuver across the battlefield, the operation will consist of a series of sustained air assaults, coordinated from the sky, and employing numerous platforms operating in synch. Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters will deliver Soldiers to where they're needed within 30 minutes of identifying a target under constant support from Kiowa and Apache air weapons teams.

Intelligence has become a force multiplier in TF Marne's area of responsibility as both Sunni and Shia Iraqis come forward with tips, and the U.S. positions its own internal assets to gather information. Marne Husky will use combat aviation capabilities to press that advantage, expanding the U.S. reach as it quickens response times, in order to restrict extremists' maneuverability in the area.

## Division starts Marne Torch II

SEPTEMBER 2007

Special to the Frontline

**HAWR RAJAB** — Operation Bethel, part of 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.'s Operation Marne Torch II, designed to reduce insurgent activity south of Baghdad and stem the flow of explosives, weapons and insurgents into Baghdad, detained insurgents, and destroyed weapons caches.

Paratroopers from Company B, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, detained seven suspects, two of whom were connected to the production of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

While searching a building, Paratroopers discovered several hundred 20kg bags of detergent that an explosive ordnance disposal team assessed as key ingredients in the creation of homemade explosives.

An AH-64 Apache helicopter destroyed the building with a Hellfire missile.

A second air weapons team destroyed a suspected VBIED factory that was discovered by another group of Paratroopers in the area.

While conducting a patrol on the ground, the Paratroopers found a car missing its battery and one wheel. A military working dog reacted to the trunk, which was not opened for fear of booby traps. An air strike was called in to safely dispatch the vehicle and the building in which the car was parked.

Two Apaches from 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div., destroyed the vehicle and building with two Hellfire missiles. The attack helicopters destroyed four other vehicles at the site with their 30mm cannons. Soldiers at the scene counted seven secondary explosions at the site, which indicates explosives were hidden in the vehicles and building.

## Operation Marne Courageous

SEPTEMBER 2007

Tim Kilbride  
MND-C Public Affairs

**Baghdad** — Operation Marne Courageous kicked off in the early morning of Nov. 16 with more than 600 Coalition Forces and Iraqi army soldiers moving into two villages near the border of Anbar province to drive out al-Qaida in Iraq, and lay groundwork for a sustained Coalition presence.

Troops were transported in four helicopter lifts across the Euphrates, utilizing two CH-47 Chinook helicopters and eight UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. A Marine reconnaissance platoon, as well as Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, stationed in neighboring Anbar province, secured the landing zone.

Once on the ground, the U.S.-Iraqi force

was supported by an air weapons team of Apache and Kiowa helicopters, while approximately 70 Iraqi Concerned Local Citizens assisted in securing the outlying perimeter.

While U.S. and Iraqi forces moved through the villages, other troops set to work constructing a bridge across the Euphrates to allow for the transport of materials and supplies to build a patrol base in the area. The base will allow for a sustained Coalition presence in the area of Owesat, part of Baghdad's southwestern "belts."

No enemy fighters were killed or captured during the assault.

Marne Courageous' main strategic thrust is to clear AQI extremists from the area of Owesat, establish a coalition presence, and develop a concerned citizens program in the area as a bulwark against further enemy activity.

## Coalition Forces' flush out extremists with 'Marne Roundup'

December 2007

Special to the Frontline

Iraqi army and Coalition Forces partnered up to launch Marne Roundup, an operation focused on flushing out al-Qaeda extremists and weapons smugglers operating near Iskandariyah during the early morning of Dec. 15.

The ground assault included Iraqi army forces and Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

"The purpose of Marne Roundup is to defeat al-Qaeda in North Babil" by denying them sanctuary and escape routes, Col. Thomas James, commander of the 4th BCT,

3rd Inf. Div. told reporters Dec. 9.

"The plan is designed to catch them as they egress," James said.

By afternoon, troops had encountered no resistance as they moved through the target area.

In tandem with the start of the offensive, U.S. Soldiers destroyed two buildings used by insurgents to store improvised explosive device-making materials, using a total of 12 Guided Multiple-Launch Rocket System rockets.

According to the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., one of the intended effects of the operation is that Iraqi residents of the region will witness a demonstration of Iraqi Police and Army forces standing up to AQI and providing services.

Marne Roundup is the latest in a series of combat offensives launched by Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers to squeeze AQI from the areas south and west of Baghdad.

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, assigned to the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div, found the tunnels as they were searching an area northwest of Iskandariyah, along the Euphrates River.

Immediately prior, they discovered a cache of improvised explosive device com-

ponents and were investigating when the tunnels were unearthed.

The tunnels provided access to numerous al-Qaeda fighting positions. Inside the tunnels were several DSHKA rounds, leading troops to speculate the tunnels may have served as enemy firing positions for anti-aircraft guns, as well as hiding places for AQI fighters after they launched attacks.

U.S. and Iraqi soldiers are in the area as part of Operation Marne Roundup, the latest Coalition offensive to target extremists in MND-C.

The operation launched the morning of Dec. 15, 2007.



# Buildings dedicated to Marne heroes



Ann Erickson

Sgt. Jason Thompson, Company C, 26th Brigade Support Battalion combat medic and Charlotte Kearns, Hawks' daughter, unveil a sign dedicating the Fort Stewart TMC to Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd C. Hawks.

JANUARY 2007

## Clinic named for 3rd Inf Div MOH medic

Ann Erickson  
Winn Public Affairs

The newly dedicated Troop Medical Clinic now bears the name of Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd C. Hawks, 3rd Infantry Division combat medic, as of Jan. 18, 2007.

Hawks was the first combat medic awarded

the Medal of Honor in World War II for his actions near Carano, Italy on Jan. 30, 1944. Hawks was assigned to the 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. Hawks, who was a private first class at the time, earned the Medal of Honor for risking his life above and beyond the call of duty according to the citation.

Hawks braved an enemy counterattack in order to rescue two wounded men, who unable to move, were lying in an exposed position within 30 yards of the enemy. An enemy machine gun bullet penetrated his helmet, knocking it from his head, momentarily stunning him. As he raised himself to obtain bandages

from his medical kit his right hip was shattered by a burst of machine gun fire and a second burst splintered his left forearm. Despite the severe pain and his dangling left arm, Hawks completed bandaging the remaining Soldier and pulled him to safety. This clinic will serve as a reminder to all who enter of the selfless service of medics.

## Soldier center dedicated to 3rd Inf Div's Audie Murphy

JULY 2007

Pfc. Amanda McBride  
4th Brigade Public Affairs

The most highly decorated Soldier in the United States Army's history, Audie Murphy, showed bravery and courage when it was needed the most. The Soldier Service Center was renamed the 2nd Lt. Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center July 11 to recognize a man who went above and beyond the call of duty. Without being told, Murphy put his own life on the line to

help save the lives of the Soldiers he was in charge of. The event that most people may recognize as the event that made Murphy a household name, was when he single handedly fought off enemy fire and put his life on the line to save others. "Audie Murphy's story was one of bravery and sacrifice," said Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander. "Audie Murphy was credited with destroying six German tanks, as well as killing 240 German Soldiers, wounding and

capturing countless others." Though the Marines and paratroopers would not allow Murphy to join, he showed he was capable of being a Soldier and with doing that he received all the awards a Soldier can receive for valor, all before he turned the age of 21. "After just three years of active-duty service, he already had received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award the military gives for valor and 32 other United States medals; not to include the other five lofty medals that he had received from France and Belgium," Buchs said.

## Fitness Center dedicated

AUGUST 2007



Nancy Gould

Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Daniel Whitney and Hunter Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Aarons, unveil the new memorial sign dedicating the Hunter Sports Complex officially Aug. 10, 2007 as the Pfc. John C. Squires Fitness Center. Squires was a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier who received the Medal of Honor for his service during World War II. Whitney honored Squires for his World War II contributions in battle and emphasized the important role physical fitness plays in combat readiness.

## New elementary school named after WWII hero

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sgt. Tanya Polk  
Editor

Fort Stewart recognized a new home for the "Eagles" as its newest elementary school was formally dedicated to a 3rd Infantry Division hero here, Sept. 12 2007. The new nest was necessary for the installation's Liberty Woods community as Stewart's population continues to soar. The building dedication ceremony highlighted the war efforts and heroism of Pfc. Patrick L. Kessler. A former Dog Faced Soldier, Kessler risked his life for his comrades and went above and beyond the call of duty during World War II.

As a Soldier with Company K, 30th Infantry, 3rd Inf. Div., the 22-year-old Middletown, Ohio native earned the Medal of Honor for his actions May 23, 1944, near Ponte Rotto, Italy. He killed at least four Germans and captured 16 while wiping out two machine guns and a pair of snipers during the Anzio breakout. Kessler didn't live to receive his medal. He was killed in action two days later. Kessler is survived by his sister Gladys Carseas; his sister-in-law, Virginia Kessler; and his nephew, Robert Kessler. The war hero's nephew and sister-in-law sat in his honor at the ceremony.

DECEMBER 2007

## Sports complex honors Marne Korean War hero, renamed

Sgt. Tanya Polk  
Editor

A 3rd Infantry Division hero's name lives on as the Fort Stewart sports complex was dedicated in his honor, Dec. 4. Starting with the education center, which honors Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, the 3rd Inf. Div. has held five building/facility dedication ceremonies honoring war heroes of the Marne Division. The Fort Stewart sports complex, now known as the Private First Class Emory L. Bennett Sports Complex, makes the sixth. Private First Class Emory L. Bennett, Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Inf. Div., risked his life and went above and beyond the call of duty during the Korean War, June 24, 1951. Swarmed by two enemy battalions at 2 a.m., Bennett left his foxhole into enemy fire and continued to inflict numerous casualties against the enemy with his assault rifle. Even when ordered to move back out of the line of fire, Bennett volun-

teered to stay and cover fire for withdrawing elements until he was mortally wounded. His self-sacrifice saved his unit's position from being overrun and he earned the Medal of Honor. The sports complex on Fort Stewart is used for intramural football and softball, recreational activities, and provides a field for Soldiers to conduct physical training, among other uses. "When I walk up to these facilities now, I've got a renewed interest," said Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander. "When I read these citations in front of these buildings and complexes and facilities a sense of pride and honor rushes through me because I understand what they stand for. Education, sports, the ability to do all of our in processing, our schools for our children - none of these freedoms would be there for us to use if it weren't for these heroes and all the thousands of other heroes that they represent."



SEPTEMBER 2007

# Community hosts Freedom Walk

Pat Young  
Managing Editor

“Today is about remembering. It is about remembering the events of that day, six years ago – remembering some of the most amazing accounts of heroism anyone has seen or heard - and remembering the sacrifices of some 3,000 men, women and children,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Whitney, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander to the hundreds of people in attendance at the Freedom Walk, on Cottrell Field Sept. 9, 2007.

“We gather here today in respect for those who are committed to be part of something larger than themselves.”

Whitney spoke of sacrifice. Not only on the part of the victims and first responders of September 11, 2001, but of each Soldier, civilian and emergency worker who’s given of themselves in the fight against terrorism. He said the Freedom Walk was the nation’s way of paying tribute and saying thanks.

The event was sponsored by Liberty County, the city of Hinesville, civic and veteran organizations, and Fort Stewart-Hunter.

The Hinesville Mayor, Thomas Ratcliffe, and Liberty County Commissioner, Connie Thrift, echoed Whitney’s words.

Ratcliffe said there was no more fitting place to remember our heroes, than on Cottrell Field, in view of Warrior’s Walk, where Eastern Redbud trees and granite markers honor the memory of each Soldier who fell while serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in the cause to fight terrorism.

Ratcliffe praised the efforts of the military, and those emergency workers who put their lives on the line daily, as well as those who step up to do extra-ordinary acts of heroism, although not generally trained to do so, such as those on Flight 93, who gave up their own lives to prevent further harm to others.

“Scripture reminds us that “No greater love has any man than that he lay down his life for his neighbor, for his friend, for his brother, even for a stranger,” quoted Ratcliffe.

With more than 600 people in attendance at the walk, including firemen, police officers, Soldiers, Family members, retirees and community members in support, the attendees understood the message because each has given of themselves in that effort.

The attendees came to support the effort, some to represent a person or group, others for a cause.

Jessica Davis and Laura Jarrett brought their respective Families in support of their deployed husbands Sgt. Paul Davis, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, and Pfc. David Jarrett, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor.

“We stand behind our husbands 100 percent,” Davis said. “They are doing a very good job.”

Hinesville firefighters Robert Kitchings, Terry Satterfield, and Engineer Ernest McDuffie, Hinesville Firefighter of the

Year, helped with a display of firefighter pride with Engine 3 at the Freedom Walk.

“We’ve got to support all our fallen brothers,” Setterfield said.

The camaraderie was also joined in with firefighters and police officers from Fort Stewart and a number of surrounding communities with 6th street lined with emergency response vehicles, including a bomb disposal unit from the 731st Explosive Ordnance Division, who brought two robots as part of their assets display.

“We are here to help remember 9/11,” said Arthur Baron, Fort Stewart police officer and Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer for Kessler Elementary.

“But we’re also here to help support the community, Family and Children of those who continue in the fight against terrorism.”

Fort Stewart police officer Denis Paulsen, a retired United States Army Soldier, who served two tours with the 3rd Inf. Div., took time during the event to visit Warrior’s Walk and remember two of his Soldiers who served with him in the 4th Brigade, 6th Battalion, 8th Infantry who died as a result of an improvised explosive device.

With a solemn voice he expressed his feelings regarding the efforts in Iraq.

“We’re helping the people,” he said. “A lot of the news doesn’t show the faces of the children and Families who are grateful our assistance. We’re making a difference. In my personal opinion, it stinks that it has to continue, but pulling out now would cause more trouble, and we’re making a difference.”

The walk was joined by groups representing local schools, Family Support Groups, Boy Scouts of America from Troops 410 and 454, and even various motorcycle clubs making up the Hinesville Motorist.

The events continued on September 11 with special events to remember the events that occurred six years ago.

On Stewart and Hunter, four moments of silence were held followed by taps to mark the occasion of each attack, at 8:46 a.m., 9:02 a.m., 9:37 a.m., and 10:03 a.m.



Sharon Bass

**More than 600 Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, emergency responders, and community members from Stewart-Hunter and surrounding counties and cities, gathered to remember 9/11 and honor the heroes in the Global War on Terrorism.**

In Iraq, Task Force Marne Soldiers took time on 9/11 with a remembrance ceremony held at the Task Force Marne Headquarters.

Camp Victory firefighters, were on-hand to represent the emergency responders who lost their lives. In addition, the Multi-National Corps Commander, Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno spoke to Task Force Marne Soldiers during a remembrance ceremony Sept. 11, 2007 at the Task Force Marne Headquarters, Camp Victory.

The dedication toward the global war on terrorism was also marked by the re-enlistment of more than 25 Marne Soldiers on the anniversary of the event.

# Family Day builds memories for 4BCT

SEPTEMBER 2007



Pfc. Amanda McBride

**Tom West blocks Staff Sgt. Keith Heath from taking a shot during a game of basketball at the three-on-three tournament held outside Caro Gym at the Vanguard Family Day for 4th BCT Soldiers and Family members.**

**Pfc. Amanda McBride**  
*4th BCT Public Affairs*

Though the day was hot and the grass was soggy in some places, Soldiers and Family members came out in large numbers to support the 4th Brigade Combat Team Family Day Sept. 14, 2007 at Vanguard Field on Fort Stewart.

Everyone came out to bond together and to create a lasting Family memory before the brigade deploys.

“The goal of Family day is to reinforce the unity of the Vanguard Brigade Team,” said Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander, speaking before all of the brigade’s Soldiers and Families in attendance at the kickoff of the day’s events. “It’s more than just the Soldiers in the ACUs; it’s also the Family members that come together through the FRG (Family Readiness Groups) and rear detachment organizations.”

The day started as 4th BCT Soldiers participated in a three-mile brigade run. The run was led by the brigade commander and each battalion followed behind.

Later in the day, Soldiers participated in horseshoes, Tug-o-War, three-on-three basketball and hot-shot basketball competitions. The event also included children’s rides and games.

While the day included competitions held between the different battalions in the brigade, its main purpose was to

bring together the Families and Soldiers so they could take the time to just relax and spend quality time together in the midst of all the preparation activities taking place prior to the deployment.

“This really is the first time for the entire brigade to get together; to include the Family members, who are just as much a part of this brigade as the Soldiers,” said Capt. Paul Thiessen, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 4th BCT.

Throughout the day, the main focus was on the Vanguard Family and that theme continued until the end of the event.

The event showed Family members that while the Vanguard Brigade has focused hard on training, making its Soldiers ready for deployment, it was still important to remember that everyone associated with the unit, no matter if they are in ACUs or civilian attire.

“We’ve worked very hard over the past 14 months preparing for the deployment,” said James, who then turned the topic of deploying to its effects on Families. “Deployments are tough on the Family no matter what.”

“The separation is difficult, but we’ve worked really hard to mitigate that through the FRGs and the rear detachment, and all the associated programs and also through getting to know each other,” said James.

“And so I’m confident we’ll be ready to go through this deployment and accomplish our mission and come home to our Families who have been well cared for.”

OCTOBER 2007

# 3/3 Aviation Bde invites Families to training

Nancy Gould  
Hunter Public Affairs

The rain held off as Family members traveled down muddy roads in humvees to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment’s field training site at Fort Stewart Oct. 7, 2007. It was the first opportunity that many wives, husbands, fathers and mothers had for a close up look at how their Soldiers live and work in the field while away from Hunter Army Airfield.

An hour earlier, the group assembled at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex on Stewart to watch an AH-64 Longbow Apache fire down 70mm rockets and 30mm rounds from a chain gun mounted to the lethal aircraft’s 2.75 inch snout.

Pilots and Soldiers paused from two weeks of day/night annual qualification training on the aircraft to show Family members their operational expertise in protecting our ground forces and getting the “bad guys” in the global war on terror.

Heather Ketchmark, whose husband, Sgt. Daniel Ketchmark, 3/3 Avn. Reg., loads and tests rockets fired from Apaches, watched the demonstration with her three children, ages 4 years, 2 years and 2 months.

“My four-year-old knows that dad is going

to Iraq to get the bad guys,” said Ketchmark.

“It was worth the effort it took to get the kids up and out here. They were curious about where Dad’s been this last week.”

Other spouses, such as Susan Corson, wife of Lt. Col. Michael Corson, 3/3 Avn. commander was also curious. “After all these years in the Army I finally get to see my husband’s workplace in the field.”

It was the first Family Day for the 400 Soldiers and their Families in the battalion since the summer of 2006, according to Lt. Col. Corson, who was pleased with the enthusiasm from Soldiers and Family members about the event.

“We do all the aspects of our mission here that we do at Hunter,” he said. “Families can see how we live and work, and they can see Apache helicopters and what they do. They also see how the entire battalion moves in the field, how Soldiers shower, get meals, everything.”

After traveling to the assembly area, Family members were allowed to be escorted throughout the camp by their Soldiers. Companies were set up separate from each other, each with its own command posts, according to Maj. David Moga, 3/3 Avn. executive officer.

Ground and maintenance platoons were also set up; a tactical motor pool; a Forward Arming Refueling Site and a tactical operations center for security.

At the far end of the camp, six Apache helicopters were parked in a row lined up in a row to face a protective berm. Soldiers without visitors continued maintenance on some air-

craft, while Soldiers showed off the remaining aircraft to Family members.

At the end of the day, a light drizzle fell as Families filed into the “mess” tent for hotdogs and hamburgers. As one Soldier ran for cover after lightening cracked in the distance, he shouted to the group, “now you’re playing Army.”



Nancy Gould

**Soldiers and their Families walk to watch training during 3/3 Aviation’s Family Day, Oct. 7, 2007 at Fort Stewart.**



SEPTEMBER 2007

# Task Force Marne initiates Web site

## Special to the Frontline

A new venue for learning about Marne Soldiers opened Sept. 4, with the advent of *TaskforceMarne.com*, an online single-source portal for information on the task force's activities and messages, for Soldiers, Families, leadership and the media.

It will provide Marne leadership the opportunity to share the details of our mission with the public, and allow each of the component brigades to tell their stories in support of the overall mission. It will also provide the media tools for interacting with the task force and telling our story.

Audience members who log on can expect to find regular site content that includes the 'Daily Top News Story'; feature stories from the various units assigned to Task Force Marne; 'Command Corner', where

the Marne leadership can share their perspective of current issues; and 'Soldiers' Stories' – the latest print, video, and photo of the outstanding Soldiers who make up the Marne Task Force

The site will be designed to provide a platform offering multi-media packages to audience members, including video and audio features, photo gallery, and press releases.

People who visit the site will find the latest newsletters including the Dog Face Daily and Marne Focus.

A number of related links will hyperlink to other military Web sites, and resources related to Task Force Marne's mission.

The site became active Sept. 4, and will continue to be upgraded with time.

Find out what's happening online now at *TaskforceMarne.com* today.



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

***Sgt. Albert King, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, receives a flag from USO and Red Cross members Oct. 12, prior to getting on the military aircraft at Hunter Army Airfield en route to Iraq. King was one of 15 Soldiers who flew on an Air Force aircraft with some of the military equipment.***

Check out  
the  
Frontline  
online at

[www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil)

and look for local  
happenings with  
the  
Quality Times



# Education Matters

## College term dates announced

Enrollment is starting for the next college term. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information. **Central Texas College** – The next term runs now through March 1. For more information at Stewart, call 767-2070, 315-4090 at Hunter. **Columbia College** – The next term is Jan. 14 to March 8. For more information at Stewart, call 767-5336 or 352-8635 at Hunter; **Embry Riddle** – The next term is Jan. 14 to March 8. For more information at Stewart, call 767-3930, or 352-5252 at Hunter; **Savannah Tech** – the next term is now to March 6. For more information, call 408-2430.; **Webster University** – The next term is now to March 6. For more information, call 767-5357 at Stewart, or 354-0033 at Hunter.

## Vie for Purple Heart Scholarship opportunities

Learn about scholarship opportunities for Purple Heart recipients, visit [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org) or [scholarship@purple-heart.org](mailto:scholarship@purple-heart.org).

## Learn about available federal scholarships

Learn about the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Scholarship at [www.feea.org/scholarships.html](http://www.feea.org/scholarships.html) or call 1-303-933-7580.

## Webster offers deployed reduced online tuition

Soldiers enrolled in Webster's graduate classes will receive a reduced rate, while deployed. Contact Marsha Sands at [sands@webster.edu](mailto:sands@webster.edu), or 354-0033, DSN: 315-5906 for additional information.

## Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial need to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

## HOPE Grant - great opportunity for spouses

Educate while you wait! Get your certificate or diploma and pursue your new career during this deployment.

Certificates for Web site technician, child care manager, and medical transcription are a few of the eligible programs offered by Savannah Technical College. Classes are available in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center and at the Liberty Campus on Airport Road in Hinesville. For more information, call Savannah Tech in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 408-2430, or the Liberty Campus at 408-3024.

## Take CLEP and DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates.

The exams are free for military personnel and for non-military examinees, CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90.

## Free English-as-a-second-language courses

Beginning courses are offered 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursday. Intermediate courses are offered 8 a.m. to noon Monday and Wednesday. ESL class registration begins at noon every Tuesday, at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100, room 227. For more information call 368-7322.

## Take GED and skills enrichment courses

Graduation Equivalence Diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED

Exam or refresh your skills.

The courses are free of charge. You can select from one of a number of dates and times, which are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228. For more information, call 368-7322.

To register for the classes, you must be present for both days of the process. Registration is first come, first serve. Active duty military are registered upon request. Call 368-7322 for complete details.

## Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

## Children's scholarship handbook offered

The Military Children's Scholarship Handbook, "Getting Uncle Sam to Pay for Your College Degree", is available at [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com).

## Learning center provides computer resources

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center's learning center has 55 computers with Internet access available. You can use the center to complete your homework, research for your classes, access the Army's basic skills automated program, "Lifetime Library" or just stop in to check your e-mail.

The center is open seven days a week.

It is closed on federal holidays. The learning center is room 230, building 100. The hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday.

The Hunter learning center is open 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. Take advantage of a variety of study resources and Internet capability. For more information, call 315-6130.

## Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center for spouses of military personnel enrolled in their school. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of their three credit-hour classroom courses.

The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process. Call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

## \$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, during a one-hour brief at the Education Center, room 223.

## Savannah Tech offers child care

Child care is available at the Airport Road Hinesville campus. Contact Natasha Brown at 408-3024 ext 6026 for more details.

## CTC adds degree programs

Two new associate degrees will be introduced: Information Technology A.A.S and Legal Assistant/Paralegal A.A.S. Also, courses leading to certificate for Information Center Specialist are being offered. Go to [www.ctcd.edu](http://www.ctcd.edu) for course descriptions. For more information, call 767-2070 or 315-4090.

## Troops-, Spouse-to-Teachers briefings slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Future meetings are scheduled for 11 a.m., Jan. 16 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at [www.tttga.net](http://www.tttga.net) and [www.sttga.net](http://www.sttga.net) or call 1-800-745-0709 or 767-8331.



## Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

## Management jobs available

The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

- **Child and Youth program assistant**, \$10.09-\$12.36 per hour
- **Recreation Aid**, \$5.85 - \$7 per-hour
- **Operations Assistant**, \$5.85-\$8 per-hour
- **Cook**, \$8.70 per-hour
- **Hotel desk clerk**, \$7-\$7.50 per-hour
- **Cashier**, \$8 per-hour
- **Custodial worker**, \$7.72 per-hour
- **Waiter (Trainee)**, \$7.17 - \$8.17 Per-hour
- **Food Service Worker**, \$7.17 Per-hour

To search for these types of positions go to [cpol.army.mil](http://cpol.army.mil). click on Employment, click on Search for Jobs, at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement" or hit the enter key. This will narrow your search to the Stewart-Hunter NAF vacancies. Instructions on how to apply are on each announcement. Additional NAF vacancy announcements currently posted on the CPOL Web site:

## Tax Assistants

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield tax centers have several Temporary Hire positions for Tax Assistance Coordinator and Tax Preparer for the 2007 Income Tax Season. These positions can be found online at [USAJOBS.com](http://USAJOBS.com) or CPOL Web site. Interested personnel should submit their application electronically via the applicable Web site.

## Fitness Center Assistants

Experienced individuals needed to independently carry out a physical fitness program at Stewart-Hunter gymnasiums. Certification as a fitness or Personal Trainer is a must. The positions start at \$12 per hour. For more information, call the NAF division at 767-5051.

## Did you know?

- You don't have to be a U.S. Citizen to be employed by NAF.
- Hiring preference for eligible military spouses can be used multiple times for employment in "flexible" status positions.
- You do not lose eligibility until you are placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds).
- There is a hiring preference in NAF for involuntarily separated military members and their eligible Family members.
- Current NAF employees who have worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army.
- Youth at least 16 years of age can be employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria of Federal and state child labor laws.
- NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary.
- Go to [www.armymwr.biz](http://www.armymwr.biz) and click on Programs for more information. Eligible employees who move between DOD NAF and APF positions can "port" certain benefits such as retirement, leave, etc.

## Need resume help?

Contact ACS employment readiness at 767-1297. For further information on employment opportunities contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, job information center at 767-5051.

## Liberty County Schools Superintendent search

A public forum will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Liberty County Board of Education Building, 200 Bradwell Street to gather input toward the search for Liberty County School Superintendent.

The opportunity provides military parents, who have children in the Liberty County Schools, to voice their suggestions and input on qualifications for the next Superintendent. If you cannot make the forum, email your comments to the School Liaison Officer, [david.sherwood.smith@stewart.army.mil](mailto:david.sherwood.smith@stewart.army.mil).

# Legal Notices

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Joshua R. Anderson**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart Georgia 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Aubrie Pfeiffer, HHC 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga 31314, phone 767-4876.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Lui Tumanuvao**, HHC 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, Fort Stewart Georgia 31314, contact Capt. Eric J. Motzenbecker, HHC, 1/30th Inf., Fort Stewart, Ga 31314, phone 767-7638

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Samuel Kelsey**, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Fort Stewart Georgia 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Tegan F. Searle, 703rd BSB rear-detachment, Fort Stewart, Ga 31314, phone 767-0441.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Reno S. Lucerna**, 226th Quartermaster Company, 87th Combat Service Support Battalion, Fort Stewart Georgia 31314, contact 1st Lt. Poquita Gibbs, 226th Quartermaster Co., 87th CSSB, Fort Stewart, Ga 31314, phone 767-7036.



NOVEMBER 2007

# Main chapel opens, Army Family Covenant signed

Frontline Staff

Hundreds of people gathered at the new main chapel Nov. 7, 2007 for the official ribbon cutting and subsequent Army Family Covenant signing.

FORSCOM Commander, General Charles Campbell and his wife Diane were on-hand to assist in the ribbon cutting. They were joined by Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander and his wife Renee; Sarah Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division Family Readiness leader and wife of Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch and Installation Chaplain, Col. Ronald Hill, as they cut the ribbon.

The ceremony officially opened the new 36,050-foot post chapel complex.

The new chapel was designed to help relieve overcrowding at the installations chapels and provide modern facilities for its community members. It has room for about 579 people in the main sanctuary, with the ability to expand to 1,000 by opening its auxiliary area.

It features addition space and 17 new class rooms that provide extra benefit to the community. It provides a location for groups like the Protestant Women of the Chapel and Catholic Women of the Chapel to meet.

"We will be able to move a number of our programs from the schools to our new facility," said Chaplain Hill in an earlier interview. "Programs like our Sunday School services and Vacation Bible Schools. In addition we'll be able to expand our services."



Catherine Johnson

**FORSCOM Commander General Charles Campbell looks on as Col. Todd Buchs, Stewart-Hunter garrison commander signs the Army Family Covenant, an initiative that demonstrates the Army's commitment to Army Families.**

Hill said the new facility will have two multi-purpose rooms and two specialty rooms and also has a baptismal well capable of offering full immersion if so desired.

"It will be a wonderful feature that's not available in many places," Hill said. "One of the happy moments we do is bless and baptize children."

The construction contract was awarded to Atkins Incorporated for \$9,658,000 and is part of the installation standard design projects.

Following the ribbon cutting, community members and leaders entered the new chapel for the signing of the Army Family Covenant.

The covenant was introduced officially to community members in a special Town-Hall meeting Nov. 6, 2007 at Club Stewart where more than 240 Soldiers, Families and community members attended.

The town hall meeting was televised with Hunter Army Airfield and shown live on Marne Television.

The primary objective of the meeting was to introduce the community to the Army Family Covenant, a Army level commitment to our Families, which affects all levels of service down to the individual Family.

Col. Todd Buchs, the Stewart-Hunter garrison commander was the key speaker and discussed the new initiative. He said Army Families are important to mission success, and that our Soldiers draw great strength from their Families.

He said the welfare of Army Families is increasingly important to everyone in the Army, and across the Army leaders want to share their committed to building a partnership with Families.

Buchs, with a slide show presentation, showed how the covenant represents a \$1.4 billion commitment in 2008 to improve quality of life for Army Families, with many benefits affecting to the Stewart-Hunter Families, such funds to help establish a new Teen Center on Stewart, and the new Hunter spray park.

He noted the Army has long

had support services for Family members, but services were sometimes not funded to the highest standard, and the covenant was designed to help in that effort.

In short, the covenant demonstrates The Army leadership committed to Soldier and Family readiness as the foundation of the All-Volunteer Force.



Jennifer Scales

**Col. Todd Buchs, Stewart-Hunter garrison commander and his wife Renee; Diane and General Charles Campbell, FORSCOM commander; Sarah Lynch, 3rd Inf. Div. Family readiness leader and wife of Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch assist Col. Ronald Hill, Installation Chaplain in cutting the ribbon to the new Fort Stewart Main Post Chapel, Nov. 7, 2007.**

## Midcoast airport opens with joint-use agreement

NOVEMBER 2007

Frontline Staff

After years of planning and final construction, the Midcoast Regional Airport is now ready as 'a wonderful window to the world', at Wright Army Airfield.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, held Nov. 5, 2007 makes the building ready to receive passengers and provide a gateway to the common good.

"Originally called Liberty Field, it was later named for Sylvania native, Charles Wright, who died in a helicopter crash in the early 60's near the airfield," said Col. Todd Buch, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander. "This joint project has brought us renewed runways and will improve capabilities for military and civilians."



Jennifer Scales

**The Midcoast Regional Airport Terminal, a 14,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art terminal that contains both civilian and military operations, was officially opened at a ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 5, 2007 at Wright Army Airfield.**

The joint-use regional airport is a cooperative effort between the City of Hinesville, the Liberty County Board of Commissioners, the Liberty County Development Authority, and Stewart-Hunter.

The airport includes a newly constructed approximately 14,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art terminal.

The terminal contains a civilian building and military operations building. The military portion is leased to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the civilian entities.

The airport also offers several different types of hangar space.

Rick Mansford, airfield division operations officer for Stewart - Hunter said in an earlier Frontline article that the agreement has come a long way since 1995 where the

Georgia Department of Transportation recommended level II airports is considered to service counties throughout the state.

The agreement helped enhanced the airports capacities, allow for shared maintenance and upkeep cost and allowed for the servicing of multiple counties.

Some of the chief improvements included upgrading the runways, taxi-ways, lighting, and creating the new Midcoast Regional Airport Terminal, along with aircraft storage and service facilities.

The end result provides four runways, two for rotor-wing aircraft and two 5,000 foot runways for fixed wing aircraft capable of landing a military C-130 and a variety of commercial aircraft.

The agreement helps the installation by providing an upgraded training platform, allowing the military to optimize its resources.

The Georgia Aviation System Plan Airport Summary Report at <http://tomcat2.dot.state.ga.us/Aviation> indicates the venture could prove to be a force multiplier for the local economy too.



# Sustainment Bde holds prayer breakfast

December 2007

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq** – Christmas time represents many different things to different people. To some it means Family and time to spend with them. Some people conjure up images of a man in a big red suit bringing presents to boys and girls around the world. For Christians, however, Christmas means much more than just a time for giving. It represents the birth of Jesus Christ. That is why Forward Operating Base Q-West held its Spiritual Fitness Prayer Breakfast Dec. 12 with a Christmas theme.

Christmas, first called the Feast of the Nativity, spread to Egypt in the year 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century. By the end of the eighth century, the celebration of Christmas had spread all the way to Scandinavia. Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.

Held in the Heart of the Rock Café Dining Facility on FOB Q-West, the prayer breakfast featured prayers by Chaplain Maj. Brian Ray, 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Chaplain Capt. Pratima Dharm, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, as well as scripture reading by 1st Sgt. Cynthia Howard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd STB. Christmas songs such as "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night, Holy Night" were sung by all.

The special guest speaker for the event was Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, command sergeant major for Multi-National Forces – Iraq.

Hill reminded everyone that FOB Q-West was where he was once sta-

tioned.

"I am delighted to be here this morning," said Hill. "These are my old stomping grounds. Back in the day, when giants roamed the earth, this was my stomping ground, and it's good to be back in them."

Hill told about the different levels of fitness that can be achieved during a Soldier's deployment into Iraq. Hill said that a Soldier in their 15-month deployment in Iraq should leave Iraq physically fit, intellectually fit, financially fit and most importantly spiritually fit.

"This is a time to reflect and to search and to dig deep inside and depend on something much bigger than yourself," Hill said. "To do that you probably have to be spiritually fit so you have something to give to someone else."

Hill talked about strength, the strength that resides inside of when we need it the most.

"As Soldiers and leaders deployed here in Iraq, we face moments of pride and joy, but we also face moments of frustration, anger and even sadness," Hill said. "In between those intense highs and those profound lows, we face a lot of emotions in between. During the tough times, the challenging moments, the dangerous situations, the exhausting operations, we sometimes have to look outside of ourselves for the strength and courage necessary to move ourselves and our team forward."

In intense times of combat or other extreme situations, Hill said that people often look to a something or someone higher than themselves to pull them through the situation, usually through prayer.

"We pray for various reasons," Hill said. "I use it to find hope. I use it to find strength. I use it to find courage in times of adversity. I use it to give thanks."

Christmas time is a time of giving. Give thanks to someone or something higher than yourself for all that you have been blessed with.



Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Piper

**Soldiers from the 1/3 BTB Desert Alley Cats belt out the end of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" during the Camp Ramadi Carol Off, Dec. 23.**

## Carolers compete at Christmas contest

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Piper

1st BCT Public Affairs

**CAMP RAMADI, Iraq** – It started with four then was narrowed down to two, but in the end there could only be one in the Camp Ramadi Carol Off.

The event was held to provide a little competition and Christmas cheer to make being away from home a little more bearable.

"It gives us something to brighten the season some, because without something like this, it can be pretty depressing," said Spc. Jani

Soberon, military intelligence night analyst for the Brigade Troops Battalion.

The four teams sang two songs each for the first round, and then the judges made their decision on which two would advance to the next round.

Not only were the judges looking at musical talent, but at how much the crowd enjoyed their performance.

The songs ran the gambit from religious, such as "Mary Did You Know," to less serious songs, such as "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "The 12 Days of Christmas" with corresponding choreography.

"We picked the songs (we performed) because we knew we and the audience could have a lot of fun with them," Soberon, a member from the Desert Alley Cats, said.

The first two teams eliminated were the two-man ensemble of Tenacious B and the Desert Alley Cats, leaving the Marine team Front Toward Enemy and The Ramadi Rhythm Kings to compete for the number one spot.

In the end, it would be the musical talent that would carry the day for the Ramadi Rhythm Kings giving them the title for the Christmas Carol Off.

## Tree brightens night, Soldier spirits

Maj. Lee Peters

1st BCT Public Affairs

With a flick of a switch, an ordinary palm tree in the grove transformed into one adorned with spiraled, white Christmas lights and illuminated the night.

More than 150 servicemembers gathered at the 1st Brigade Combat Team headquarters in Camp Ramadi to listen to holiday music provided by the 3rd Infantry Division's brass band, the lighting of the tree and take photos with Santa Claus.

On a clear Friday evening, Maj. David Bowerman, the brigade chaplain, provided the opening invocation for the inaugural Tree Lighting ceremony and praised this holiday as a time for

hope and peace.

"We ask that you lift our spirits and give us strength," Bowerman said. "Let this light shine tonight as a symbol of our eternal hope for peace on the earth."

Col. John Charlton, 1st BCT commander, spoke about the sacrifices that servicemembers, Families and Iraqis have given over the past year.

"I know that a lot of you wish you were home with your Family at this time of year," Charlton said, "but remember the sacrifices we make today will help keep our Families safe tomorrow."

Many of the attendees said that although they are deployed to Iraq and away from their Families, this ceremony helps them remember traditions celebrated at home.